



ABOVE: What links Lewis and a comic book design? For the answer, turn to page 3.

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2010

Tondu man (59) robbed elderly women in street

TWO women pensioners aged in their 80s were robbed of sums of money in the centre of Bridgend, after they had been deliberately targeted by a 59-year-old man, a court heard.

At the time, Kenneth Norris was "at the end of his tether" after losing hundreds of pounds gambling, in an unsuccessful effort to pay off his debts.

On one occasion, Cardiff Crown Court heard, he attempted to take his life by drinking a bottle of whisky and taking paracetamol.

Norris, of Tondu, unemployed and who had no previous convictions, was jailed for 18 months, after pleading guilty to two charges of robbery.

Recorder Huw Rees told him: "You committed street robberies

against two vulnerable elderly ladies.

"I accept there is no evidence of high living but you targeted these two women. This case is a tragedy for you and punishment there must be."

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that on February 20, 81-year-old Elizabeth Morris caught a bus to Bridgend.

She returned on another bus soon after and felt concerned and anxious at "a scruffy man" on the seat behind.

She got off at St Iltyds Road, Cefn Glas, and she had walked four yards when she was pushed violently from behind and almost fell over a wall.

Her attacker was Norris and he grabbed her bag containing £54, credit cards, and television stamps.

"Mrs Morris was in great shock, Norris ran off, dropped the bag,

Report by AJ SICLUNA

returned and picked it up.

"His victim suffered pains in her shoulder and was visibly shaken and upset."

Ms Phillips said that on August 26, 83-year-old Constanta Jones drove herself into Bridgend and withdrew £300 from her bank.

She returned to her car and as she unlocked the door, Norris pushed her violently into the vehicle.

The door slammed against the back of her legs and she had a fleeting glimpse at her attacker running away.

A witness, Kay Jenkins, had seen Norris walking behind the woman and hiding behind a car and she attempted to chase him.

She said: "It was an awful incident, a heartless attack."

The police, said Ms Phillips, recognised the similarity of the two robberies and spotted Norris following Mrs Jones into the bank on CCTV.

A member of the public anonymously identified him and when arrested, he made immediate admissions.

He told the police his wife had died three-and-a-half years ago, there had been debts, and he had gambling problems.

He indicated he had seen the women going to banks and followed them to take money.

He said he gambled the £54 taken from Mrs Morris and used the £300 taken from Mrs Jones to pay debts, drink and to gamble.

His counsel, Andrew Taylor, said that because of what happened, he had been forced to move when neighbours had discovered what he had done.

"This was a highly unusual set of offences

in unusual circumstances, and he has not attempted to downplay his actions," said Mr Taylor.

He stated that it had to be accepted there was an element of pre-planning and they were not chance encounters, but Norris didn't use a weapon and used only minimal force.

He said he had been married for 23 years, but he and his wife had accrued many debts.

"Foolishly, he thought the way out was through gambling. He also drank two litres of whisky a week.

"He became isolated and desperate and he is extremely sorry. Reason and commonsense went out of the window."

"He is a forlorn figure who fears prison, but understands it is the only sentence the court can have in mind. His world has caved in."

The Porthcawl Lions bring Santa to town!



PHOTO by KEITH E MORGAN For a report and more pictures, go to page 5.

SAD DEATH OF PORTHCRAWL COUNCILLOR CLIVE HARE

OBITUARY

A PORTHCRAWL town councillor has died after a long illness.

Businessman Clive Hare, aged 74 of New Road, was a former RAF pilot who later ran a nursing home in Porthcawl with his wife Margaret. The couple had two daughters.

Coun Hare was elected to represent the Newton ward of Porthcawl Town Council as a Conservative member.

He took his seat in May 2008 but has been too unwell to attend meetings for some time. It is understood that he was suffering from a brain tumour and was given leave of absence by the council.

The funeral took place on Wednesday at Coychurch Crematorium.

Tory Assembly candidate voices concern over Porthcawl regeneration

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A Conservative Assembly election candidate is calling for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to be more open about Porthcawl regeneration.

Suzy Davies, the Welsh Conservative Assembly Candidate for the South Wales West regional seat, told The GEM that she believes BCBC is keeping more from local residents than normal commercial confidentiality demands.

She said: "It's over a month since The GEM drew our attention to concerns over the land acquisition negotiations surrounding the development of the Porthcawl regeneration area."

That GEM article revealed that Tesco had paid £7 million for the land it needs for a new supermarket.

However, although profits from the sale of Porthcawl regeneration land will be split between BCBC and the Evans families on a 60-

40 basis (60 per cent to BCBC), it turned out that the lion's share of that cash (£4.7 million) had gone to the Evans'.

BCBC will get the lion's share of subsequent phases, and when they come to pass.

Suzy Davies said: "It is absolutely right that the Evans families are properly reimbursed for relinquishing freehold and leasehold interests."

"However, The GEM reports suggest that, not only are they retaining land to develop residential plots - not part of their core leisure business - but they are also securing new interests to complement that core business."

"The GEM report also suggests that the land has not been revalued since 2006, since which time the value of land earmarked for commercial development has been less than robust."

"That, combined with uncertainty as to ratio of public to private ownership of the 93-acre site, and how the individual parcels of land have been valued, inevitably

starts people wondering.

"If it is now right that the families have secured 72 per cent of the up-front profit from the Tesco deal, then the Evans families have one hell of a negotiator on their side!"

"Once the supermarket is up, their vested interest in the success of the rest of the scheme need be only minimal."

"The interests of Porthcawl's other council taxpayers are much more vulnerable - to problems attracting investors, cuts to local government funding and concerns over BCBC's tourism strategy."

"Lack of clarity over planning gain and lack of confirmation that such gain will be concentrated in Porthcawl all help foster a lack of trust in the decisions BCBC is making."

"Hopefully, all this suspicion is unjustified. It would really help if BCBC could release the information to reassure us that they have not been held to ransom."

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Road accident: call for witnesses

WITNESSES are being sought to a road accident at about 12.20pm on Wednesday, December 1, at Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, near Bridgend College. "As a result of the collision, a 17-year-old female pedestrian from the Bridgend area sustained serious but not life-threatening injuries. Officers deal-

ing with the collision are seeking any information on the vehicle involved," a police spokeswoman said. Witnesses are asked to contact South Wales Police on 101, the roads policing unit at Gwaedol y Garth on 02020 571600, their local police station, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Green Flag for Bryngarw

BRYNGARW Country Park has been recognised as one of the country's finest green spaces with a prestigious Green Flag Award.

Run by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the park at Brynmenyn is made up of 113 acres of woodland, wetland,

meadows and formal gardens.

Green Flag judges were impressed with its excellent use of green space, well-maintained facilities and high standard of safety and security.

The park was highly commended for its well managed natural and manmade habitats, with the judges highlighting the commitment of the rangers to the park, its visitors and wildlife.

The contributions of community volunteers were particularly applauded, while the park's environmental education programme received the highest praise, with the potential of Bryngarw becoming a flagship for such activity.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing said:

"This is fantastic news and I want to congratulate everyone who has helped achieve this success, and who make Bryngarw Country Park such a popular place.

"Country parks like Bryngarw offer the community high quality, free open spaces, provide a refuge for wildlife and give access to a wide range of physical, mental and social health benefits for the wellbeing of the local community and beyond."

For more information telephone 01656 725155 or email bryngarw-park@bridgend.gov.uk; visit: www.bryngarw-house.co.uk.

behaviour when members of the public can observe him.

"This was a serious matter involving exposure where there was a child."

He told Lewis: "I hope that you are thoroughly ashamed of your behaviour; you ought to be."

He said what he did in front of the child was "particularly criminal". The judge added: "If you come back before the courts again, you won't be dealt with, with the same degree of leniency. I am giving you an opportunity to redeem yourself."

He was banned from working with children and was not ordered to pay costs.

His defence counsel Meirion Davies said he had been trying to find alternative accommodation.

Nominate a worthy citizen for an award!

BOROUGH residents are being asked to nominate outstanding citizens for the third annual Mayor's Citizenship Awards.

They are open to all who live and work in the borough and have made a 'positive impact' in the community. Groups and businesses that deserve recognition can also be nominated.

Coun Colin Teesdale, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "I would particularly like to hear about any exceptional members of the community who have made a big difference, either through

voluntary or charitable work, by carrying out an act of bravery, or achieving excellence in sport, for instance.

"The standard of nominations is always high and I look forward to hearing about the outstanding and community-focused residents of the county borough," the Mayor added.

For full details of the award criteria and to obtain a nomination pack, log on to www.bridgend.gov.uk or phone (01656) 643663.

The deadline for submission of nomination forms is January 7, 2011. The awards ceremony will be held on March 1, 2011.

ASSEMBLY CASH FOR EXPANSION £695,000 windfall for four post offices in borough

FOUR Bridgend post offices will share over £695,000 of Welsh Assembly Government funding, Social Justice Minister Carl Sargeant AM has announced.

Porthcawl, Bettws, Pontycymmer and Sarn Post Offices have been awarded grants under the Post Office diversification fund to expand their businesses and provide new services for the community. A further 44 post offices from across Wales will also share the money.

At Bettws Post Office, customers will be treated to a new fish and chip shop, while Porthcawl, Pontycymmer and Sarn Post Offices will use their funding to upgrade the premises, improving security

and the overall customer experience.

Mr Sargeant said: "The local post office is no longer simply a place to buy stamps, pay your bills or post letters. Sub-postmasters and mistresses across Wales are diversifying their business to provide a much wider range of services.

"You may not expect to find many of these services in a post office but expanding the range of products on sale is a great way of getting more customers through the door to help sustain the business.

"These grants are helping our post offices to survive and I am delighted that another 48 have benefited from Assembly Government funding."

Free course on fitness training in the borough

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is looking for candidates to take part in a free training programme supported by Sport Wales.

Successful students will gain the certificate in Teaching Exercise and Fitness – a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification awarded by the CYQ Exam Board.

The qualification is a great starting point for those wanting to teach classes such as aerobics and body conditioning.

No prior knowledge or qualifications are necessary but applicants should regularly attend exercise to music / aerobic classes and have an awareness of rhythm and steps.

Everyone who applies will be expected to attend a group exercise to music session to determine suitability.

Applicants have until December 13 to apply. For more information contact Rachel Jenkins on rachel.jenkins@bridgend.gov.uk / 01656 642450 or visit www.bridgend.gov/leisure for more details.

Local pools are commended for improvements

PYLE and Pencoed swimming pools have been recognised for their improvement and commitment to industry standards.

They were visited recently by a Quest assessor who undertook a detailed evaluation of the services they provide, with the areas covered ranging from customer service to health and safety. As a result both have now improved their accreditation from 'approved' to 'commended'.

Coun Morgan said: "This is a great achievement for both centres and is both testament to the hard work of all involved and a step towards our aim of becoming the leading sport and physical activity service in Wales.

"At Bridgend County Borough Council we are committed to continually improving our facilities for our residents and Quest assessments are an integral part of that process".

SUCCESS FOR THE BRIDGEND COUNTY SWIMMING SQUAD

AT the recent Swim Wales Winter National Swimming Championships at the Welsh National Pool, Swansea, Bridgend County swimmers won 18 medals (four gold, five silver and nine bronze), with a further 15 swimmers in the finals.

Highlights were Cameron Jones who won three gold, two silver and one bronze medal; Emilie James one gold, two silver and one bronze medal; and Helen Fussey, with one silver and one bronze.

Other medal winners were Bethan Sloan, two bronze; Luke Parkes, two bronze; Mathew Sullivan, one bronze and Laura Ashton with one bronze.

Three Bridgend swimmers achieved the qualifying times for the British National Championships in July 2011. Emilie James did so in a number of events, Ffion Wareham took nine seconds off her best time in the 200m butterfly, and there was a first national qualifying time for Bethan Sloan in the 100m breaststroke.

Seven other swimmers qualified for the finals, but just missed out on medals. They were Chloe Laforges, Ben Grabham, Ballaz Vincze, Christian Davies, Owen Leary, Anna Morgan and Tamas Vincze.

A week later, Bridgend's younger swimmers got a chance to show their talents in the Welsh Capital Open Meet, with more impressive results.

Medallists were Rebecca Sutton two golds (winning the 100m breaststroke by 10 seconds) and three silvers; Keiron Makenzie, one gold; Lucy Dennis, one silver and Helen Fussey with a bronze

(Helen's third medal in two weeks).

This year Bridgend County Swim Squad has 14 swimmers ranked in the top 10 in Great Britain, with a further eight in the top 50, and all the swimmers have come through the various developments squads within the county of Bridgend.

The swimmers are all coached by Phil Melhuish, assisted by Rhodri Herbert.

PL

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 16)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Ht	
	AM	M	PM	M
09 Thur	08.26	9.4	15.11	8.9
10 Fri	09.04	9.0	21.21	8.7
11 Sat	09.46	8.8	22.02	8.4
12 Sun	10.24	8.4	22.37	8.0
13 Mon	11.07	8.1	23.31	7.7
14 Tues			12.04	7.9
15 Wed	00.33	7.6	13.09	7.6
16 Thur	01.42	7.5	14.19	7.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELINE MOON MP for Bridgend
Constituency office - 47 Noltan Street, Bridgend.
Telephone 01656 750002.

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Gogme
Constituency Office 01656 737777

JANICE GREGORY AM for Gogme
Constituency Office 01656 860034

CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend
Constituency Office 01656 664320

BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, 26
Dunraven Place, Bridgend 01656 654951

MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau
01656 734662

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service
men, women and families in need 01656 785435

SAMARITANS (emotional support) 01656 662333

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCC 0800 800500

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Housing service

(General enquiries) 01656 643643;

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643643

(outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

SOCIAL SERVICES

(general enquiries) 01656 642200

(outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of
Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

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Man jailed after he broke woman's jaw

A YOUNG woman underwent extensive surgery and had bars, wires, plates and screws inserted in her jaw, after she suffered a double fracture at the hands of her partner.

At Cardiff Crown Court, her attacker, 30-year-old Christopher Davies of Bridgend, was jailed for one year eight months, after he admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on Kathleen Smith.

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said Davies and Miss Smith had had a relationship for about six months and they had lived together for two months.

She said: "They had a tendency to argue after

by AJ SICLUNA

they had been drinking. "On August 27, she returned home after shopping in Bridgend, and there was an argument."

Miss Phillips said Davies was very drunk, having consumed seven cans of lager.

Miss Smith fled from the house and Davies chased her.

"He caught her and punched her two or three times to the jaw and tried to drag her away. A neighbour shouted at Davies and he ran off."

Earlier, said Miss Phillips, Davies had said: "I'm going to smash up the house," and when Miss Smith returned home, she found the television

stand had been wrecked. Miss Smith was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital, where the double fracture was detected.

The court heard that Davies had convictions for 38 offences, including violence, criminal damage and harassment.

His barrister Byron Broadstock said: "The relationship was clearly volatile and he himself was once struck with a rolling pin."

"They both had a temper, but that didn't justify his behaviour. The attack was not prolonged or premeditated and he is deeply sorry."

Recorder Simon Picken said: "These were nasty injuries and there can be absolutely no excuse for this behaviour."

Optician backs Guide Dogs for the Blind

A MAESTEG opticians raised more than £115 for Guide Dogs for the Blind with an in-store fundraiser.

Staff at the Specsavers store in Talbot Street offered a free repairs service in return for donations to the charity, which trains and provides guide dogs to partially sighted people across the UK.

Store director Nick King, said: "We've been really pleased by the response from local people who are willing to donate very generously in return for a service that we provide for free."

"We managed to completely fill our collections box and even got some fantastic feedback from our local Guide Dogs for the Blind representative".

Staff focus is on needy children at Christmas

STAFF at a local opticians smashed their own target, and collected more than 118 charity shoe boxes of festive gifts for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

The shoe boxes, collected as part of Operation Christmas Child, organised by charity Samaritan's Purse, were filled with donations from staff, customers, Red Devils fans and members of the congregation

from Trinity Church, in Pencoed.

Anne Lowndes, director of the Specsavers store in Bridgend, said: "With all the frantic present-buying at this time of year, it's sometimes easy to forget about those less fortunate during the festive season."

"We've taken part in Operation Christmas Child for the last couple of years and we're thrilled to have more than doubled last year's total of 43 shoe boxes! We've even been awarded a certificate from

Samaritan's Purse in recognition of our efforts.

"Local people really got into the spirit of it this winter and we'd like to thank everyone who helped us reach such a fantastic number of boxes to help make a disadvantaged child's Christmas a happier one."

The boxes from the store are currently being dispatched to less fortunate children in Kosovo and contain toys, candy, letters, and basic items, such as toothbrushes and soap.



ABOVE: Bridgend Specsavers staff and Stevie Lyle, net minder for the Red Devils, show off their collection of gifts.

Young Lewis (10), has designs on a new car



ABOVE: Lewis Panniers and Andrew Maciver, sales manager Sinclair Volkswagen, Cardiff with the winning car design.

A BRIDGEND boy will see his 'comic book hero' design brought to life on a Volkswagen Touran and received a year's supply of cinema tickets for his efforts.

Lewis Panniers aged 10 from Bridgend, was announced as the winner of the Sinclair Volkswagen 'design a car' competition, which marked the launch of Volkswagen's new MPVs, the Touran and Sharan.

Youngsters were challenged to create an imaginative and colourful design, based on their favourite comic book hero, to celebrate the new family orientated vehicles.

Clive Williams, Sinclair's group operations manager, said: "We were overwhelmed by the number of entries we received."

"Lewis' design instantly captured our attention due to his creative use of characters and colours. Clearly he is talented and his pas-

sion for superheroes were certainly evident in his design.

"We are delighted to introduce two new family cars to our range and felt a competition aimed at young people would be an excellent way to showcase their arrival."

"Lewis' winning design will feature on Sinclair Volkswagen Cardiff's demonstrator Touran, and includes the Batman and Superman emblems on the vehicles' sides, with a Captain America logo on the roof."

Town groups ask Tesco: 'WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR US?'

A MEETING is taking place tomorrow between Tesco and a group of Porthcawl organisations.

Those taking part will include Porthcawl SHOUT, the Chamber of Trade, the Civic Trust and Porthcawl U3A.

They will be meeting Sophie Alokha, who is Tesco's property manager for the new store they are building in the town.

SHOUT has already had some talks with Tesco, but this will be the first direct meeting with Ms Alokha.

Gary Victor of SHOUT said that the only item on the agenda will be what Tesco will provide for the people of the town as community gain.

Tesco are to build a new supermarket on part of the Hillsboro Place car park in a development which will also take in The Portway and part of Salt Lake car park.

The GEM has already reported that Tesco are paying £7m for this land. The site forms phase one of the Porthcawl Regeneration Plan.

Gary Victor said that Porthcawl had never received any community amenities from either Bridgend County Borough Council, which owns most of the land involved in the deal, or the Welsh Assembly Government.

He said that Tesco will be asked by the council to pay for new roads to service this development.

"We shall be asking for money for public leisure

facilities - for both the younger and older residents of the town - which will also provide an economic advantage as it will attract visitors to the resort other than on sunny bank holidays."

SHOUT has been leading the campaign for a swimming pool in the town, collecting a petition and staging a pool-less gala each summer to highlight the lack of a pool in the town.

There is also no leisure centre or sports centre in Porthcawl.

Win free Esporta Health Club passes in another great GEM competition. (Turn to page 22 for details)

Groundwork celebrates 21 years of being green

GROUNDWORK Bridgend & Neath Port Talbot recently invited 120 local schoolchildren to its site at Parc Tandu, to celebrate its 21st anniversary.

Children from Brynmynyn, Croeserw, Tandu and Bryn Primary schools attended the celebrations, which were held to coincide with National Tree Week.

The children took part in a range of environmental activities - from making solar powered boats to building habitats - and also held a tree dressing ceremony, where they made environmental pledges.



RIGHT: Brian Rees, chair, Groundwork Bridgend & Neath Port Talbot (left to right children) Oliver Hatt, Tandu, Emily Short, Croeserw, Paul Rees, Brynmynyn, Patrick Kirby, Bryn.

Maesteg Catholics pile on the points

LLANGEWYDD Arms still top Division One after their 49-40 win against Laleston Inn 'A' on Monday, November 29.

However, they didn't have the week's highest score as that was achieved by Maesteg Catholic Club, who won 55-36 away to Coychurch Wanderers.

Oldcastle 'A' were going very nicely at the Royal Oak where the Nomads, as in the previ-

V A NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE

ous week, were behind early on, (seven after the individual round) only to hit a nine-question winning streak to win the match 52-48.

Tyrisha Royals gained their first victory, beating Tandu Railway Club 38-36 and Mackworth Arms won an interesting game against Llynfi Arms by 46-41.

In Division Two, Six Bells are still on 100 per cent after their 47-39 win

at the Pheasant Poachers, but Cabo Roche had most points, winning 49-34 at Llangeinor AFC.

The Gamekeepers drew level with the Poachers and Llangeinor by beating Laleston Inn 'B' 44-34 and Oldcastle 'B' maintained their climb up the table by beating Pyle RFC 47-35.

Finally, Heol-y-Cyw RFC, despite beating Oddfellows Arms 38-32, remain at the foot of the

table. Here are your four-for-thought:

1. What term was coined during the First World War for the psychological effect caused by exposure to bombardment?

2. Cape York, the most northerly point of Australia is in which state?

3. Which darts player in 1984 hit the first televised nine-dart perfect

501 in a match against Keith Deller?

4. Which American singer was the one-time son-in-law of Thora Hird and was nicknamed the 'The Velvet Fog'?

A RUDGE (Hon sec)

ANSWERS:
1. Shell-shock
2. Queensland
3. John Lowe
4. Mel Tormé

'Safety of children is our priority' – local school in plea for a new car park

A local primary school is to launch a campaign to make sure it doesn't miss out on a new car park which the head-teacher and governors claim is desperately needed to avoid parents picking up children on a dangerous road.

Staff at Llangan Primary School say that if the car park does not go ahead, they fear a child could be injured.

The headteacher Mrs Mary Noyes explained: "For the seven years I have been here we have been trying to get the car park."

"It is needed because of the excessive traffic and the speed it travels. I want children away from the road."

Currently, parents can pick up children by parking in a lay-by alongside the school, but Mrs Noyes pointed out that it still meant pupils were sometimes just feet from speeding vehicles which have ignored the 30mph warning signs.

The lay-by can accommodate up to 15 cars, but sometimes more than double that number can be outside the school which forces some parents to park on the grass verges.

Mrs Noyes said three incidents in recent years illustrated how dangerous it was on the stretch of road outside the school: "About four or five years ago a child suffered a head injury when he was hit in the face by a vehicle wing mirror."

"Three years ago, two parents were lucky not to be killed when they were loading children and their cars were hit by vehicles."

Mrs Noyes said that over the years the local education authority had always been very supportive of the needs of the school and steps were taken to try and

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE: Mrs Mary Noyes, staff and pupils say they need a car park so that pupils can be picked up in a safe area away from the main road.

find a solution.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr John Homfray, a local landowner, it appeared the problem was going to be solved.

"Two years ago, Mr Homfray gave us a field which could be used for a school car park, and we were forever grateful to him. At the time money was put aside for the scheme."

"It would mean a short two minute walk for pupils and parents along a path at the rear of the school to a safe area well away from the main road."

The £130,000 scheme was due to go ahead in February next year – in time for the school's centenary celebrations.

However, amended plans have now been put forward proposing the car park is situated nearer the school and that the lay-by should go. The governors and staff are opposed to either of the changes. The cost of the amended scheme would be £280,000 – and the project has now been rejected because of the excessive cost.

It is not scheduled now to go ahead in 2011.

Mrs Noyes said the school would be in favour of the car park being built in a different

location as long as the costs did not go up and the scheme was completed within the financial year.

She added that she was dismayed and upset that the school might miss out on the new car park.

"I can't guarantee the safety of the children which is my first priority."

"I'd like to speak to the person at the council who has made this decision."

Huw Davey, the chair of the governors, added: "I don't want to be the person having to speak to reporters if an accident has happened."

"We have wanted the car park for many years but keep getting knocked back."

The school is to launch a campaign in the hope of getting the original plan reinstated, and work under way as soon as possible in the New Year.

Bryan Jeffreys, director of learning and development at the Vale Council, said: "Officers from the Vale Council have been working with the headteacher and governors at Llangan School to develop proposals to improve the safety of pupils."

"The school is adjacent to a busy road and

has insufficient parking. Measures to reduce the speed of traffic have been introduced but a more fundamental solution is needed."

"Following a kind donation of land from a local landowner, a plan was developed to establish a dedicated school car park. Unfortunately as the proposal would have required parents and pupils to walk the final 150 metres to the school along a new lane, there were concerns about safety and whether this £130,000 facility would be used in preference to the current school lay-by."

"An alternative proposal was developed to provide a car park adjacent to the school. These proposals have been estimated at £280,000, a figure beyond the funding available to the council or the school."

"As a consequence, education staff and high-ways engineers have been asked to review other options which may be available to improve safety for pupils."

Mr Jeffreys added: "The council accepts the need to further improve the current arrangements and is determined to develop, in consultation with Llangan School, proposals which will achieve this objective."

News in and out of class at Litchard Primary School

BUILD A BRIDGE

THE children of year-6 recently took part in a 'Build a Bridge' with Knex with Mr Ian Hill, designing and building a bridge to their own specifications.

The children had great fun constructing their bridges and we would like to say a big thank you to the parents for their voluntary contributions towards these workshops.

Without them the workshops could not take place.

TECHNIQUEST

THIS term, year-3 children have been studying electricity as their topic and visited Techniquet for an electricity workshop.

The children had great fun racing solar powered cars and conducting static electricity experiments.

A great day was had by all and the children were extremely well behaved.

RUGBY NEWS

HARRY HOPKINS played for the Bridgend district under-11s rugby 'A' team on November 3 against Pontypool district at Pontypool RFC ground.

Harry played No 13 for the first half before moving to No 10 and converted the final try.

Bridgend district won 39-14 against a very good Pontypool team. Bridgend district remain unbeaten after four games played so far this season.

Well done to Harry Hopkins 6R and Will Prosser 6S for being ball boys at the Ospreys game at the Brewery field on November 11.

Both boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and did a very good job.

We would also like to congratulate past pupil Matthew Morgan on his outstanding performance playing for the Ospreys.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children on their superb achievements:

Caitlin Sanders (1M) on receiving a United Dance award red and purple badges. Luke Florence (2T) on being Lichard Football Player of the Week. Ben Crowley (2T) also received a medal for taking part. Lauren Webster (2T) passed her Stage 5 10m backstroke, breast stroke, butterfly and front crawl. Porsha Roberts (2T) passed her Rainbow and Grade 10 swimming.

Archie Waagenes passed his 5m swimming badge. Fern Grabham (2T) passed her white, red, orange and yellow belts in Jujitsu. Elliot Davies (TM) on gaining the Chief Scout's Silver award from the Mid Glamorgan Area Scout Council. Jack Haxton (1G) Duckling Awards 3 and 4, Geraldina Woronin (1G) won a skiing medal.

'Kinderschisshule Seefeld' Rhys Littlejohns (1G) 5m front crawl and Stage 2 National Plan Award and 5m back stroke swimming awards. Sophia Lina (1G) Stage 1 National Plan swimming award. Tabitha Cerey Jones (Nursery) on receiving

ing her Grade 1 and 2 Duckling award. Well done, everyone!

COACH EDUCATION

CROESO I Miss Ruddall from the Active Young People department (AYPD) will be sharing her expertise to improve skills in after-school clubs.

POLITE NOTICE

PLEASE can parents wait at the beginning and end of the day behind the grey fence in the infant department yard and not in the garden area?

Daffodil bulbs planted for spring have already had to be replanted by pupils. Thank you.

THANK YOU

A VERY big thank you to all the children and staff that dressed 'spotty' for Children in Need day last Friday.

We are pleased to say that a grand total of £250 was raised for this worthwhile cause.

JAZZ SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS to Zoe Baldwin (3S), who competed in her very first jazz band competition.

Zoe won first place for maracas – making her Welsh national champion. Well done, Zoe.

GOLF SUCCESS

WELL done also to Matthew Bird (6S) who has been selected to train with the Vale of Glamorgan golf club.

Matthew plays golf at Pyle and Kenfig club, and was one of the children selected from local golf clubs for this wonderful opportunity. A future Ryder Cup star in the making?

Well done to girls who play netball for Pen-Y-Bont Dragons. They recently played Llanharan and won 6-0 and Llantrisant drawing 2-2. In training, Morgan Jones (5C) was named as 'Best Player'.

Who's planning what & where?

BCBC Economic Development Unit – entrance to the estate, Millers Avenue, Brynmynyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend – construct two new estate entrance signs (one to north and one to south of Millers Avenue) mounted on stone walls.

Mrs Frances Lee – 18 Heol Maendy, Sarn, Bridgend – hardstanding and ramped access for disabled person.

Mrs J Allen – Furzebrook, 82 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – renewal of outline consent P/07/1099 out for one dwelling house.

Mr M Carey – 47 Heol Ty-Gwyn, Maesteg – single storey side extension to form a disabled bathroom.

Mr A Fawcett – Bryn Mawr Farm, Maesteg – storing of caravans on hardstanding to rear of farm.

Anchormill Limited – land at Duffryn Oaks, Hendre Road, Pencoed – relocation of plots 37 and 38 to reduce height of retaining wall to 39.

Mr Williams Howells – Baiden Farm, Ffordd y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – install 18m high – 11kw wind turbine.

Mr C Jones – 11 Bedw Arian, Bryntirion, Bridgend – two storey extension to rear of property and extension above garage to front and associated internal refurbishments.

Mr Paul Kinsella – Devon View Garage, South Cornelly – lawful development certificate for retention of garage.

Miss C Haskayne – 1 The Square, off Newcastle Hill, Bridgend – change woodframed windows to uPVC (Article 4 direction).

BCBC Children's Directorate – Ynysawdre Comprehensive Senior and Middle School, Heol-y-Ysgol, Tondur – new secondary comprehensive school and community facilities – affecting Footpath 3 Ynysawdre.

Mr Robert Foakes – 68 Heol West Plas, Coity – first floor extension.

Mr Islwyn Davies – 27-29 Oxford Street, Pontycymmer, Bridgend – change of use of ground floor shop to self-contained flat.

Kim's Hair Beauty – 57 Cae Brackla, Brackla, Bridgend – relaxation of condition 1 of consent 08/620 for conversion of integral garage to hair-dressing salon.

Mr M Cooling – 29 Laburnum Drive, Porthcawl – raise roof height and loft conversion – re-submission of P/10/212/FUL.

Mrs Eddis Clayton – 59 Heol Croesty, Pencoed – dormer extension to rear elevation roof.

Mr John Evans – 30 Heol Groes Faen, Nottage, Porthcawl – re-submission of P/10/481 to construct single storey flat roofed bedroom/shower room.

Mr Dylan Williams – 8 Austin Close, Porthcawl – single storey extension and internal alterations.

Mrs LD Evans – 27 Duffryn Close, Coychurch, Bridgend – single storey extension and garage conversion.

Mrs G Graham – 12 Gwendoline Street, Nantymoel, Bridgend – single storey rear extension and access ramp.

Bridgend MP is told about the changing role of Afghan women



ABOVE: Mrs Moon with Dr Ghazanfar.

MADELEINE MOON MP has had talks with the Women's Affairs Minister from Afghanistan, Dr Ghazanfar, in Westminster.

A member of the Defence Select Committee and a vice-chair of the Women, Peace and Security parliamentary group, the Bridgend MP and Dr Ghazanfar discussed the progress made towards improving rights and quality of life for women in Afghanistan.

Dr Ghazanfar explained that 21 per cent of the Afghan civil service were women, roughly the same proportion as the international average, and that women had 25 per cent representation in parliament – the same as in the UK.

However, still only 37 per cent of school pupils were female and work is needed to support women who wanted to run small bus

Mrs Moon commented: "It was an honour to be able to meet Dr Ghazanfar and to be able to discuss with her many of the important issues facing women in Afghanistan today."

WINDFALL!

Post Offices share in grant from the Welsh Assembly

OGMORE AM Janice Gregory has congratulated staff at Bettws, Pontycymmer and Sarn post offices after they successfully applied to the Post Office Diversification Fund for a share of the £695,354 made available by the Welsh Assembly Government to help Post Offices expand.

The three Post Offices will use the grant to fund their own particular projects, including new facilities, automatic doors and improved signage.

Janice Gregory said:

"I am absolutely delighted that after four Post Offices in my constituency received grants in the last round of funding, a further three Post Offices in the Ogmere constituency will now benefit from the fund."

"This money will help us to keep Post Offices open by ensuring that sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses have sustainable and viable businesses."

"I'm sure staff at Bettws, Pontycymmer and Sarn Post Offices will make good use of this extra funding."

PROMOTING PORTHCAWL!



ABOVE: The Porthcawl Town Council promotional team who have been out on the streets in the town, publicising Christmas events. (PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN).

Star attraction!

PHOTOGRAPHS by
KEITH E MORGAN

THE Porthcawl Lions Christmas grotto has been a great success again this year, with many children having their first experience of meeting Father Christmas.

For the next two Saturdays (December 11 and 18) the grotto is open from 10am to 4pm at the YMCA, John Street.

Lions activity chair, Joan Cosson, said: "The entrance fee is £2-50p and every child receives a quality toy from Father Christmas."

The main charity for the Porthcawl Lions 38 Furlong, Boxing Day Fun Run this year is the NSPCC. Those taking part can get entrance forms via the Porthcawl Lions website at www.porthcawl-lions.org, or by telephoning Rhys on 01656 772369. The fun run starts from the Hi Tide at 11am and is open to all.

So far this year, Porthcawl Lions have made financial contributions to many international, national and local charities including KPC Youth, LATCH, Macmillan Cancer Support, Ty Hyfan, GLAZE, the Girl Guides, Breast Cancer Wales, the Haiti Earthquake Appeal, Help for Heroes, RNLI, Sandville, and others.

The club would wish to thank all those who have supported the club in their charitable events. The Lions Club of Porthcawl welcome new members and anyone interested should telephone Don on 01656 788583 or contact any member.

David Richards



ABOVE and BELOW: These children were happy to meet Santa!

Vale Care home duo are found guilty of ill-treating residents

TWO employees working at a south Glamorgan care home have been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of ill-treating two residents.

After an eight-day trial, Eleni Saunders (22) of Wenvoe and Helen Males (32) of Barry, were found guilty by majority verdicts of two charges of ill-treating or neglecting persons without mental capacity.

The two victims, the court heard, were aged 89 and 87, the last one of whom has since died. Sentence was adjourned until next month and they were remanded on bail.

They were found not guilty of one charge of ill-treating or neglecting a 91-year-old woman.

Prosecutor Leighton Hughes, said the two ladies concerned suf-

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

fered from dementia or Alzheimers disease and lived in the Old Rectory Care Home, Wenvoe.

The offences of ill-treatment occurred last summer.

"Sadly, the defendants found it amusing to ill-treat them," said Mr Hughes.

"The victims lacked mental capacity and I don't wish to be offensive. They were well-known by the defendants to lack such capacity and they were pretty easy targets for their bullying," he said.

Another care assistant, Leah Jones, reported their behaviour and, said Mr Hughes, "It was the dam breaking."

One of the residents would have a hand puppet brushed against her face and one of the defendants would gawll.

The victim would slide down in her chair and try to crawl away, which made the defendants laugh.

Mr Hughes said that sometimes a resident would have her ears flicked and the two defendants would then turn around and pretend nothing had taken place.

One was tormented by the pair who impugned her sister, calling her a drug addict and a prostitute.

Saunders, who had no previous convictions said: "I've always had respect for the elderly. I always wanted to go into the caring business to look after people."

Sobbing, she told the jury: "I was always brought up to respect my elders. I always wanted to give such people a better life."

"I love my work. I

went to work with a smile, and I left with a smile.

"It was an honour and a privilege to work there. I was fond of all the residents".

She agreed she had had three warnings from the management. She denied any inappropriate behaviour toward any resident.

She admitted there was a "rift" between morning and afternoon staff.

"I would never ill-treat these ladies," she said.

Males also denied any form of ill-treatment. She said she had never been convicted of any offence and had worked as a carer without any complaints being made about her for 15 years.

She said she had complained about other members of the staff, and she herself had not once been reprimanded.

Elves in force in town centre!



ABOVE: Six-year-old Sean Finney hopes that 619 more elves will come and help take a bite out of the Big Apple.

THIS Saturday (December 11) Bridgend is attempting to break the world record for the number of elves in one place at one time - by holding an 'elfsteddod'.

It turns out that if the town centre can attract 620 elves or more, Bridgend will take the world record from New York, the current record holder.

The event will be part of the celebrating 'Christmas in Bridgend' festivities, and organisers from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) want all would-be elves to join them at 2pm, on December 11 in Adare Street.

Anyone can become an honorary elf for the day by wearing a red or green jumper. An elf hat will be provided for anyone who doesn't have their own.

Rhiannon Kingsley, the town centre manager, said: "BCBC's tourism unit came up with the 'elfsteddod' idea as a bit of a joke but now it's developed into a serious competition of Bridgend against New York.

"We have 800 elf hats to give out, so we are asking everyone to come down for 10 minutes of Christmas elf fun. If we are successful, the Mayor of Bridgend Town Council will write to the Mayor of New York to lay down the challenge for next year!"

The event, sponsored primarily by the Travel House, and also by Bridgend Town Council, will see elves counted as they collect their hat and gather on the stage.

The best dressed elf will win a Nintendo DS.

There will be plenty of elf activities going on throughout the day, including arts and crafts, Christmas baking, and the opening of the Bridgend Christmas market.

Club's donation to local home

THE Sunshine Lodge 10353 at the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Club, Pencoed, presented two wheelchairs to the Glanffrdw Care Home at Pencoed recently.

Mrs Annette Morgan at the home thanked the lodge for its "wonderful gifts".

Left to right: Roy Penny, David J Jones, David Richards, Jeff Davies, Victor Pugh and Mrs Angela Brown, the club's manager.



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A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk

**Keep off zigzag lines!**

TONDU primary school headteacher, Mrs Sue Pilcher, is requesting adults who drive their children to be more considerate, and not to park on the zigzag lines.

They are there so that all children crossing the road can be seen!

Also, parents are not permitted to park within the school premises unless they have a disabled child. Some drivers have been observed trying to leave the school car park when the children are still using the designated walkways, which is a very dangerous practice.

The school has recommenced its Tondy Toddlers mornings on Thursdays between 9.45am-11.15am. This is meant to encourage the toddlers to socialise with others, and is also an opportunity for parents to get to know the staff at the school.

Sue would like to thank the PTA for their effort in holding the

Christmas fayre which, despite the snow, managed to raise £350 towards school funds.

Thanks also go to the school choir for greeting visitors to the fayre with their wonderful singing.

The cast of the pantomime *Cinders and Buttons* will be visiting the school tomorrow, and the cost of attending this much-loved event will be £2.50. The school will be subsidising this from the school concert ticket sales.

The infants' concert will take place on December 14 at 10am. There will be two junior concerts – one on December 14 at 6pm, the other on December 15 at 1.45pm.

Because of over-subscription for tickets, the school is creating a waiting list: If any person is unable to attend a concert, please return tickets to the school, so that they can be passed on to those on the waiting list.

The school choir recently sang in Sainsbury's to raise money for the Barnado's charity.

Concert date
Bridgend male choir will be holding its last concert in 2010 in St Mary's Church, Nolton on December 11 at 7pm featuring the outstanding soprano Jennifer Walker and organist, Scott Williams.

Tickets will be on sale at the door or telephone Gareth on 07773 170373

Unfortunately, the golden anniversary concert arranged at Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, for November 26 had to be cancelled because of snow.

I expect to be informed shortly of a rearranged date, and what arrangements will be put in place for existing ticket holders, so keep hold of your tickets!

Choir's carols
CŌR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) will be performing in the carol concert at St Cein's Church, Llangeinor, on December 12 at 6pm. Tickets costing £3

will be on sale at the door, and all money raised will go to church funds.

Everyone is welcome, and there will be mulled wine, along with mince pies served in the Llangeinor Arms afterwards.

Members of St Cien's Church would like to thank the hosts of the Llangeinor Arms, Kevin and Carolyn, for their efforts in holding a successful 'Elvis' night, which greatly helped toward the raising of £650 for the restoration fund.

St Cein's is one of the oldest churches in Bridgend county borough, and has existed on its present site since the 11th century.

On December 15 at 7pm in St David's Church, Pontycymer, the choir will take part in a carol concert with the Blaengarw Primary School Choir. CŌR Meibion is outstanding in the way it encourages all primary school choirs in the Garw Valley. Ticket sales and money raised will be donated to church funds.

Children's choir

DEDICATED youngsters of award winning Maesteg Children's Choir are once again busy over the Christmas period.

Together with their musical director Enid-Sian Hughes and accompanist Ryan Wood, they will be performing at the

following venues:

Tomorrow, Friday, December 10, at 7pm in St Michael's Church, Maesteg. They will be singing alongside Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society in a concert to raise funds for Cancer Relief Cymru.

On December 11 from 10.30am, they will be singing Christmas carols in the Tesco store, Maesteg.

Then, on December 15 at 7pm, the choir will be taking part in the Christmas concert at Coytrahen community centre.

Charity venue

MAESTEG 'Gleemen' male voice choir is taking part in a charity concert with the Bryn residents association in the Bryn community hall today, December 9, at 7.30pm.

On December 15 between 6pm-8pm they will be singing carols in the Tesco store, Maesteg.

Carols invite
ON December 15 at 7pm, there will be a carol service featuring Tondy Welsh Methodist Church Choir under musical director Peter David, who is also the organist at this and other churches in the Bridgend borough.

Everyone is welcome to go along and raise the roof with their singing at the service, led by Rev Gordon Sollis.

Everyone is welcome to go along and raise the roof with their singing at the service, led by Rev Gordon Sollis.

Get together
ON December 10 at 7pm there will be a Christmas concert at the Ogmogre Vale Life Centre featuring all the musical organisations in the Ogmogre Valley including Ogmogre Vale Primary School Choir, the Ogmogre Valley

Ladies choir and the Ogmogre Valley male voice choir.

The music will be provided by the Ogmogre Valley Silver Band. Tickets will be on sale at the door for £2.

Near miss!
LLANGARW Mothers' Union are to be congratulated for their efforts in reaching the finals of the Mothers' Union local skittles tournament.

The team, comprising Iris, Madge, David and Vicar David, lost by only one point. The members would like to thank Eileen and all associated with the Heol y Cyw branch for putting on such an enjoyable evening.

Midwifery talk

LBA Mothers' Union's last meeting of the year will take place on December 14 at 7pm, with a talk by Charlotte Monnelly on her interesting summer midwifery trip.

Carol services

THERE will be a community carol service at St Bride's church, Llansantffraid on December 12 at 6pm. Everyone is welcome.

Ogmogre Comprehensive School will be holding its Christmas concert in the church on December 14 at 6pm.

Ogmogre Valley male voice choir will be performing in a church fundraising Christmas concert on December 17 at 7pm. Tickets cost £5, on sale at the door.

The Young Farmers' Union will be holding their annual carol service on December 12 at 7.30pm in St David's Church, Bettws.

St Tydfwg's Church, Glynogwr, is holding its annual carol service on December 12 at 7pm, festive refreshments will be served after the service.

On Thursday, December 16 at 7.30pm, the Llangeinor Hunt will have their annual carol service at the church.

The church thanks Mr David Edwards, a member of the Communities First group, who arranged for the assistance of the Keep Wales Tidy group to clear the weeds that were encroaching on the pavements throughout the Glynogwr area, including the footpaths approaching the church.

The members of All Saints Church, Pen y Fai will be holding a Christmas fayre at the vicarage on December 11 at 2pm. There will be a large number of stalls displaying a variety of goodies, entertainment and refreshments for sale.

At Tabernacle Chapel, Derwen Road, the Tabernacle Music Society will be performing their Cyngredd Nadolig (Christmas concert) at the chapel on December 12 at 7.30pm.

Party time for the WI!
THE last meeting of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute will be at 2pm on December 8 in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, and will take the form of a Christmas party.

Pride of place will be taken by the beautifully decorated Christmas tree which will be on display around the home.

The cost will be £1 per child. To book a place, telephone Nicola on 01656 724100.

New Year are the Whist competition in January; the spring walk in Rest Bay, Porthcawl, and Friday night hop (also in March); the Gloucester City walk and the National Federation of Women's Institutes in Wales conference in Llanelli (in April) and the spring council meeting in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl in May.

Aberkenfig and District WI offers an open invitation to all women of the area to come along to meetings, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month at the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig at 2pm. More details can be found on www.cob-webs.co.uk.

Concert

TYNRYHEOL Primary School, Llangeinor choir will be taking part in the community concert at the Richard Price Centre on Wednesday, December 15 at 7pm.

Kids' crafts
THE watch group at South and West Wales Wildlife Trust encourages children up to the age of 12 to join in activities in the nature reserve at Parc Slip visitor centre, Tondy.

On Saturday, December 11 between 10am-12noon the group will be showing children how to make Christmas crafts (useful for presents) and decorations suitable for display around the home.
The cost will be £1 per child. To book a place, telephone Nicola on 01656 724100.

Waitrose, Barry

Wednesday, 15th December

Christmas Tastings

from
11am - 6pm

Enjoy a range of mince pies, stollen cake, cheeses plus a selection from local suppliers providing their tasters of cider, fresh desserts, whisky, gin and liqueurs.

**Christmas Opening Hours**

Week Commencing 5th December	Week Commencing 12th December	Week Commencing 19th December	Week Commencing 26th December	Week Commencing 2nd January
OPEN AS USUAL	OPEN AS USUAL	Sun 10.00am-04.00pm Mon 08.30am-08.00pm Tues 08.30am-09.00pm Wed 08.00am-09.00pm Thurs 08.00am-09.00pm Fri 08.00am-05.00pm Sat CLOSED	Sun CLOSED Mon 09.00am-05.00pm Tues 09.00am-05.00pm Wed 08.30am-08.00pm Thurs 08.30am-08.00pm Fri 08.30am-05.00pm Sat CLOSED	Sun 10.00am-04.00pm Mon 09.00am-05.00pm Tuesday to Saturday OPEN AS USUAL

PALMERSTON ROAD, BARRY - Tel. 01446 737173
For further branch information or to shop online, visit waitrose.com/christmas

Warming up for Porthcawl's 46th Christmas morning swim

Organisers are expecting about 1,000 registered swimmers – and more than 3,000 spectators – to join the festivities at Sandy Bay and the Hi-Tide Inn Porthcawl at this year's Christmas Day swim.

The proceedings will start again this year at 11am at the Hi-Tide Square, Mackworth Road. Swimmers are requested to sign-in between 10.45am and 11.15am; coastguards will signal the start of the swim at 11.45am.

To-date people's generosity has allowed the swim committee to donate in excess of £64,000 to local organisations. Last year, the swim organisers gave away a record amount of more than £7,300.

Sponsorship forms for those people raising money for the Swim's chosen beneficiaries can be picked up at the Town Council Office, Victoria Avenue,



The scene at last year's Christmas swim.

Information, Jane's Cards and several businesses in town.

Swim chairman, Nicola Willis said: "We are especially grateful this year to Traveland Cruise Specialists of Porthcawl and Swansea, who have sponsored the souvenir mugs."

"Father and Mother Christmas and their helpers will give away 1,500 swim mugs to the swimmers and children. Students from Porthcawl Comprehensive and St John's school submitted designs for this year's brochure and the souvenir mugs. We are pleased to announce the

winner of this year's design was James Cowdery, from St John's School, Newton.

"Last year, 15 beneficiaries received a share of the record money generated. This year, rather than choosing one or two main charities, the committee have decided to support several local charities and organisations.

"If you could help to raise some money towards these it would be appreciated. Our motto this year is: 'Swimmers – please get sponsored and support the swim's charities, all of which are local this year – don't get

cold for nothing'." Swim treasurer, Marilyn Richards said: "This year, we want the swim to be even more successful and use the money raised through our 'festive dip' to help local organisations who may need financial support, especially during this economic climate."

"We wish to thank the many local businesses and organisations, individuals, swimmers and the public for their support, without which this charitable event would not be possible".

IAN STROUD
(Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim)

Flying Vet: Judge rules on abuse of process claim

VALE 'Flying Vet', Maurice Kirk, has been told that he can continue with part of his legal action against South Wales Police – although that case is currently adjourned due to Mr Kirk's ill health.

Mr Kirk is suing South Wales Police in Cardiff County Court, claiming that a conspiracy against him had existed for many years.

In September, Judge Anthony Seys Llewellyn adjourned evidence being called in the case because of Mr Kirk's illness.

There then followed a hearing in which counsel for the Police, Lloyd Williams QC, questioned the validity of the many allegations made by Mr Kirk.

Judge Seys Llewellyn has now ruled in that case and, in a judgement running to more than 40 pages, he has identified three allegations where

Report by AJ SICLUNA

there had been an "abuse of process".

The Judge's ruling means that Mr Kirk can not proceed with any of his other allegations against South Wales Police.

In his judgement, Judge Seys Llewellyn said that Mr Kirk could pursue a claim for malicious prosecution in respect of an alleged offence of driving without insurance.

He could also pursue a claim of "wrongful detention of his motor car" and also concerning an allegation that he was wrongfully arrested and maliciously prosecuted for failing to provide a specimen of breath.

The Judge said that the Police should also disclose to Mr Kirk a summary of the evidence concerning what Mr Kirk described as "covert surveillance".

However, Mr Kirk was not in court to hear the judgement, and it

was revealed that he was in the Channel Islands trying to find a hospital where he can have two hips replaced.

That revelation came from Mr Meirion Bowen, a friend, who has been assisting Mr Kirk. Mr Bowen said: "He does not feel it's safe for him to come back to the United Kingdom."

He said that Mr Kirk was currently domiciled in Brittany and has indicated he intends to apply to the French Government for political asylum.

"He is very ill," said Mr Bowen.

If the case had gone its full length, the potential costs were estimated at £800,000.

The costs of the hearing so far will be assessed next year, following written submissions and a written response from Mr Kirk.

Mr Kirk has also indicated that he wishes permission to appeal the judgement, and he was given seven days to provide the details.

MP opposes Ogmore housing development

VALE MP Alun Cairns has come out against plans to build 84 houses on the site of the former education centre in Ogmore by Sea.

The application has been lodged by Bridgend County Borough Council, which owns the site, but will be determined by Vale planners on December 16 following a site visit.

Mr Cairns said that in his view, the development is out of scale with the village and would adversely affect its character. He was also unhappy about plans to use Somerset View as the access route.

He said: "This access is unsuitable for a development of this size. The whole thing is too big."

"A smaller development on the site could be acceptable but villagers are very unhappy about these proposals, and any plan would need to include community facilities."

Mr Cairns is also critical of the "tight grip" that the Welsh Assembly Government has imposed on planning authorities.

"They have been put into a strait jacket by all the regulations imposed by WAG," he said. "I am worried that the Vale Council's ability to turn this down is so restricted."

"In England, planning authorities have a lot more leeway to take decisions in the best interests of the people in their area."

"Here, we have a more centralised form of planning control. If the Vale refused this, there is a risk that WAG could approve it on appeal and charge costs to local council tax payers."

Mr Cairns said that Ogmore by Sea was a village of 400 houses with few facilities. He stressed that any proposed development must be of a suitable scale, so that the increase in population can be absorbed into the community.

Future of mayor's civic fund back on agenda

THE newly set up working group, formed by Porthcawl Town Council to look at the mayor's civic fund, will not now meet for six months and it will itself then be reviewed.

The group, consisting of Mayor Mary Emmet Lewis, deputy mayor Barbara Stubbs, Coun Chris Smart and Coun Alana Davies, was formed to see if the fund needs some new blood or new ideas.

Coun Chris Smart said that while everyone involved with it are volunteers and work hard, he felt that it could raise additional funds for local good causes.

He commented that the most it had raised in any year was £7,000, but this figure had not been reached during recent years and it would be nice to get £10,000.

But at the following council meeting, there was a discussion about the work of the civic fund, which is a separate body from the town council.

Some members felt they have every confidence in the civic fund and that they should not be intervening.

The matter is back on the agenda for the meeting tonight (Thursday). John Berry, who sits on the executive committee of the fund, has written a letter to the council at the request of the chairman and secretary.

He had some "disturbed" feelings about the decision to set up a working group.

He said that the Porthcawl Civic Festival Committee supported successive mayors of the town for 30 years, raising funds for the mayor's chosen charities.

In 1998, the committee decided to stand down and later that year, a meeting was called of parties interested in supporting the Mayor's Charity Fund.

The town council agreed that the fund was not the responsibility of the council. It was decid-

ed that this body would be non-political and would co-ordinate events in the town to coincide with each mayor's term of office.

No councillors are allowed to sit on the committee, although people who are councillors can take part as private individuals.

Mr Berry recalled he was elected chairman in 1998 and that he had attended council meetings urging councillors to support fundraising activities. He went on: "Regrettably, the result of those requests was nil. The suggestion that raising £7,000 in a year is insufficient, I regard as

an insult to the generous people of Porthcawl, who support many fundraising ventures throughout the year."

"I dare suggest that raising any sum in the present economic climate is a triumph. I see there is a suggestion that PCF should be raising £10,000 a year. We do not work to targets."

"We are not in competition with ourselves from year to year. We are here supporting the town mayor, whoever he or she may be."

He was not aware of any councillors contacting them to offer help but they would be very welcome.

CHARITY SALE

A VINTAGE and designer clothes sale will take place in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, this Saturday (December 11) from 10am to 4pm.

The sale will raise funds for the Ty Hafan hospice at Sully, and celebrity appearances are expected from Lucy Owen, Rebecca Evans and Rosie Swale-Pope.

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Helping hand for Rhws School from new store

The store manager, Paul Mayer, is pictured holding the cheque with Rhws Primary School headteacher Louise Lynn, with members of staff and year-4 pupils from the school.



A NEW Rhose supermarket has celebrated its launch with a donation to its local primary school.

Pupils from Rhws Primary School were the guests of honour when the new Tesco Express store on Fontygary Road recently opened. The youngsters were invited to cut a ribbon to declare the new store officially open for business!

As part of the opening celebrations, store manager Paul Mayer and his staff presented the pupils with

a cheque for £500. The store chose to donate to Rhws Primary School as part of its commitment to supporting the local community.

Louise Lynn, the headteacher at Rhws Primary School said: "I would like to thank everyone at Tesco for this generous donation. We have yet to make a final decision as to what the money will be spent on, but it is likely that the money will be put towards developing play facilities on the infant playground."

Tesco Express store manager Paul said: "We were delighted to be able to support Rhws Primary School as they are such a wonderful community organisation. We are so pleased that their pupils came to launch the new store, and join in the celebrations with us."

PACT meetings

PENDYOYLAN
Community Council meeting, Pendoylan School today, December 9 at 7.45pm.
WENVOE PACT, Wenvoe Community Hall on December 13 at 7pm.
LLANDOW PACT, Ewenny Village Hall on December 14 at 7pm.
PLYMOUTH PACT on December 15 in Brockhill Way Community Centre at 7pm.
BUTTRILLS PACT, The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library on Thursday, December 16 at 6.30pm.

Valeways walks

SUNDAY, December 12 at 2pm, Sea view walk west, Sully Church, Sully. Contact Dave on 07971 695780.
December 13, at 1.30pm, Rhose circular, Rhose railway station car park. Contact Jan on 01446 710991; Tuesday, December 14, at 1.30pm, Views of the Vale, car park at rear of Wenvoe Arms, Wenvoe. Contact Barbara on 07765 432676; Wednesday, December 15, at 10.30am, A Hidden Vale Sampler, The Star Inn, Wick. Contact Alan on 01446 773422.

NEWS FROM BARRY CAMERA CLUB

Second time lucky as the judge beats bad weather

JUDGE Robert Lloyd attended Barry Camera Club to adjudicate the November competition, despite adverse weather conditions.

It was much appreciated, as the previous week he was unable to reach the club, due to much harsher conditions near his home.

Robert felt several images in this month's entry required cropping to improve composition and that some of the black and white images would have been better presented in colour, to bring out the full glory of the shot.

He found that one or two pictures contained some detail which he would like to have seen enhanced and developed further to create the best possible results.

Robert was very impressed by a great many images and the results are as follows:

In the monochrome print category, first place went to *Sunrise*

Breakthrough by Brian Trego. In second place was *Stad Bally Strand* by Rob Owens, and in joint third place were *Cupid* by Barbra Archdale-Smith, *Up To Mischief* by Barbra Archdale-Smith and *Paris Alley Walkers* by Hugh Winnan.

In the colour print category, first place went to *Tin Tin Violin* by Hugh Winnan.

In joint second place were *Autumn Shower* by John Harvey, *Grey Heron* by Steve Durbin and *Subway Ensemble* by Rob Owens.

In joint third place were *Strelitzia* by Jamie Archdale-Smith, *Patrouille De France 2* by Jamie Archdale-Smith and *Peloton* by Rob Owens.

The projected images category was won by *Out Of The Water* by Neil Latham. In second place was *Viewpoint* by Mike Lewis.

In joint third place were *Stay Away From Me* by Phil Stilman and *No, I'm Cane* by Steve Everett.

One of my favourite images this month was *Windy Marigolds* by

our chairman, Steve Durbin. This was an abstract image of hazy colourful marigolds being tussled in the wind. It was very impressionistic and I enjoyed its creativity.

This month's competition results suggest that our continuing high standards are shared by a high percentage of members, with second and third place being shared by more than one photographer.

The competitive spirit is very much alive in our club. Well done and keep it up Barry Camera Club!

The club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry.

New members are always welcome to attend, with no obligation to join.

Report by Barbra Archdale-Smith

CHRISTMAS MURAL AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

The artists and their Nativity mural!



THE Christmas journey began at St Mary's Church in Bonvilston on Saturday, December 3, when an enthusiastic group of people, young (and not so

young) with Rev Rachel Lewis, gathered at the church to create a wonderful mural of the Nativity.

The assembled talents created and painted a stable, kings, shepherds and a host of angels.

Vivienne Hayes, whose idea it was to hold the Creative Nativity Day, said: "The church was a hive of activity. Thank you to all those who came and helped to create such a masterpiece!"

Thanks also went to those who provided the cakes and refreshments for the workers.

The mural will remain the centrepiece of the church decoration throughout the Christmas celebrations.

Vale Council tackles absenteeism

COUNCIL sickness absence figures published by the Data Unit for Wales show the Vale Council has the lowest absence figures of the 22 Welsh councils.

Vale staff absenteeism rates, including schools, reduced to 4.2 days per employee in the six-month period, April to September 2010.

The council introduced a new sickness management policy in 2008.

NSPCC 'Letter from Santa'

THE NSPCC's Letter from Santa fundraising initiative sees Santa and his elves busy preparing special letters to light up children's lives this Christmas.

NSPCC community fundraising manager Jo Leonard said: "Letter from Santa is a brilliant way to add some extra sparkle to a child's Christmas. For a suggested donation of just £5, they will receive a beautifully personalised letter, flown all the way from Santa's grotto in Lapland by his trusted reindeer."

"Sadly, Christmas is not a time of celebration for every child and many less-fortunate children don't have loving adults thinking of them at this time of year."

"That's why we are encouraging as many parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles as possible to support Letter from Santa."

"Your donation will help us create a safer, happier Christmas for thousands of vulnerable children who so desperately need our support."

To order a Letter from Santa for a child you know, either in the UK or abroad, visit www.nspcc.org.uk/santa or call 0845 839 9304.

Meet Santa

PARENTS are urged to bring the children to meet Santa in his grotto and help Arthritis Research UK raise funds for the thousands of children that suffer with this painful condition.

The charity's Vale branch is holding a Christmas bazaar on Saturday, December 18, 10am-3pm at the Paget Rooms in Penarth. Entrance is by ticket or pay on the door; Adults £1.50, children and OAPs £1. Entry to the grotto is £3 and each child will receive a gift.

There are gift stalls, lucky Santa sacks, find the reindeer and other festive attractions.

Telephone 01446 722957 for further information.



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Chris Bird has been the Autosmart franchisee for Stoke on Trent for 6 years. Before buying his franchise Chris was no stranger to Autosmart, having spent 14 years working in the factory.

"I joined Autosmart at 16 and worked my way up to aerosol supervisor," says Chris. "I enjoyed my job but felt that I could do more and I certainly wanted to earn more! Over the years I got to know the Autosmart franchisees. Gradually I realised that many came from very similar backgrounds to myself and had no previous sales or business experience. This got me thinking. I knew that if they could build a successful business then I could too. It seemed like too good an opportunity to miss."

"In 2004 I bought the Stoke on Trent franchise and have never looked back. In just 3 years I had paid back my bank overdraft, bought a lovely new house and was still growing at 20%. Autosmart's support for franchisees is exceptional and with 30 years experience they have plenty of experience at making franchisees succeed. When my growth started to slow last year my Support Manager helped me to re-plan my business and re-focus my activity. Thanks to this support I am growing again at over 30% and my success has so impressed the BFA that they have selected me as a finalist in the Franchisee of the Year competition this year."

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Vale Magistrates Court: 'Verdict' due next week

A DECISION on the
future of the Vale
Magistrates Court,
which has been
under threat of clo-
sure since June 6, is
expected next week.

In the summer, a
Ministry of Justice con-
sultation paper was
published recommend-
ing closure and propos-
ing that cases be heard
in Cardiff instead.

The Vale court is one
of more than 150 across
Wales and England
which have been threat-
ened with the axe by
the Westminster
Government.

The Plaid Cymru
Assembly candidate for
the Vale, Dr Ian
Johnson, said: "I hope
that next week's
announcement brings
good news for the
court.

"Local justice is best
handled locally, rather
than packed off to
Cardiff and Bridgend."

Dr Johnson said there
were good arguments in
favour of the court sur-
viving the consultation.

He pointed out: "The
Lord Chief Justice said
in October that this
should be reviewed.

"A significant
amount of money has
been spent in recent
years bringing the court
in Barry up to date in
terms of facilities such
as security and disabled

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

access, and it would be
a shame to see that
money wasted.

"The concerns from
the Lord Chief Justice
were also that the
courts in Cardiff would
not be able to deal with
an increase in cases,
should that happen."

Almost four years
ago, the Vale

Magistrates Court
escaped closure when
Her Majesty's Court
Service undertook an
estates' review.

In the past 12
months, a number of
local politicians have
expressed concern at
core facilities such as
the Driving Test Centre
and the Vale

Magistrates Court being
threatened. Despite a
campaign by local
instructors, driving tests
are now conducted in
Fairwater, Cardiff, after
being transferred there
earlier this year.

A decision on the
future of the court is
likely to be announced
next Wednesday,
December 15.

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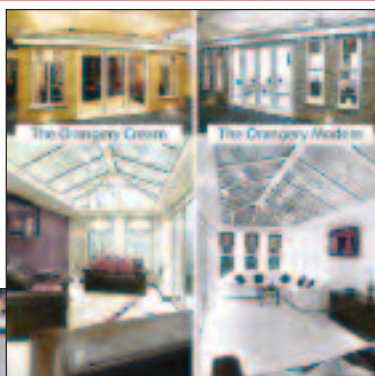
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Strategy forum thanks students

CHAIRMAN of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum, Mike Edward, this week thanked six formers of St Cyres School in Penarth for helping to make the information day on November 25 so successful.

"St Cyres school is very involved in the community and are always keen to come along and help out with any intergenerational projects that the Forum hold," he said.

"The main speaker was Coun Dorothy Turner (OPSF Champion), who explained to our members what advice and help was available from the Vale Council."

He also thanked other speakers for their presentations, the organisations that gave their time to run the information stands and answer questions from our members, and forum members who braved the bitterly cold weather to attend the information day.

WD

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D647.

● The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 785455.

● £10: 571655,

427093, 710739, 280744,

553565, 464076, 258272,

860687, 171962, 589004,

733848, 649603, 113609,

162830, 372198, 342105,

314211, 725375, 493912,

567910.

● £5: 118158, 247914,

216156, 412115, 834620,

886760, 568007, 366551,

179327, 901791, 722639,

153120, 377287, 580833,

302592, 857908, 125990,
603004, 738987,
548842, 782443, 117448,
405807, 690692, 719834,
471860, 652393, 526361,
405733, 136612, 668139,
524547, 711749, 244327,
349337, 638706, 255891,
192170, 184678, 895998,
109386, 657881, 488166,
434337, 711223, 437547,
103053, 324791, 620767,
776464, 556197, 211097,
353011, 718801, 667046,
267028, 835933, 877808,
245442, 523016.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Passing of 'father of computing'

THERE are several contenders for the title of 'Father of Computing' and one of them, Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes, passed away on November 29, aged 97.

The contention exists because of the way that computer technology developed. The 'fathers' were responsible for the stages of development that were essential to enable us to reach the point at which the technology stands today.

The whole story of its progress is full of staggering leaps of imagination and determination, never mind secrecy, desperate urgency and totally unexpected inventions.

Mathematics had been around for centuries and fine minds had enabled quite complex things to be understood and capable of calculation, such as navigation tables for sea-going trade.

Unfortunately, the reliability of the computation of the tables had to be carried out by people – and people are prone to make errors. The errors added to the normal seagoing risks, resulting in shipwrecks, loss of life and fortune.

The first 'father' was Charles Babbage (1791-1871) who

worked to mechanise the intricate calculations. His ideas were sound and his design worked, (proved by the Science Museum in 1991), but he was too far ahead of his time to be able to build his full design.

Skip to the 1940s when Alan Turing (1912-1954), an extraordinarily able mathematician, worked at Bletchley Park and helped decipher German wartime codes. He set out how a machine could do calculations electronically. His contribution earned him the name of 'father of modern computing'.

The secretive nature of wartime development meant that who was first with what was often uncertain. This was further complicated by the changing definition of what comprised a computer.

Early machines had to be laboriously re-programmed to suit each new problem. Ways were devised to generalise the instructions and store them within the machine. The decimal notation, using 10 digits, was replaced by binary, using just two.

Building on the work of others and the ideas of his predecessors at Cambridge, Professor Wilkes constructed the first computer that could store both the data and the programme of instructions within

the machine. It was 1949 and the machine had 3,000 vacuum valves and mercury tubes for memory storage.

Professor Wilkes was first to be able to offer a computer service to others; he was first to recognise that programmes needed to be tested (what today we call 'debugged').

Magnetic storage has since replaced mercury tubes and thousands of valves have been replaced by many millions of transistors. The once roomful of metal racks has been condensed to a laptop that is much faster, vastly more powerful and costs a vanishingly small amount by comparison.

It can instantly link wirelessly to other computers worldwide and is changing our lives. What will the next 'father' bring forth?

The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 14 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. It will be a social evening with Chips and Chats, after a fun quiz by Mike J. Visitors welcome.

For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS' NEWS

Through snow-covered fields to Y Gaer Roman fortress

FIVE walkers braved the icy conditions and joined leader Barrie Mortimer for a trip up to the lovely old market town of Brecon, from the Welsh Aberhonddu, meaning mouth of the Honddu.

It is there that the Rivers Usk and Honddu meet, the latter begins its journey from near the Gospel Pass at the head of the Vale of Ewyas in the Black Mountains and is said to be the home of a small grey Ceffyl-dwr – or water horse that has its origins in folklore.

The original name for Brecon town was Brycheiniog, which later became anglicised as Brecknockshire or Breconshire and its origins are Norman and date back to 1093, from Bernard de Neufmarche, whose surname comes from the village near Rouen, the capital of Normandy.

Half-brother to William the Conqueror, he captured the kingdom of Brycheiniog and built a castle in the town, which over the years withstood various attacks, including one by Owain Glyndwr.

Before the bridge was built over the River Usk, Brecon was one of the few places that could be forded and water was a useful tool for making power to drive the mills, and also for defence purposes.

The upstream ford is still known as Rhyd Bernard after de Neufmarche.

Leaving the town in a temperature of minus 4-degrees, the group passed the King's Steps, so named after King Charles I visited the town on August 5, 1645 to raise troops during the Civil War.

The group climbed up through the snow-covered ground to the trig point at the Iron Age fort of Pen y Crug standing at 331 metres. The large fort occupies the summit of a hill and the defences were made by throwing material down the steep slopes, a technique used by the Celts.

They began the descent under a leaden sky through ankle-deep snow to an unmarked road which led them to the small village of Cradoc, and after a short piece of road-walking, they tramped snow-covered fields to reach the Roman fortress of Y Gaer. The site is now under the care of CADW.

After a short lunch break because of the cold, they were glad to get moving along a very long, meandering muddy lane which led them back to Brecon.

On December 11, meet at 9am at the Barry



ABOVE: Pen y Crug in the snow.

Waterfront for an 8-mile moderate walk at Bonvilston and Penmark; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On December 12, meet at 9.30am at the Barry Waterfront for a 7.5-mile moderate walk at Sigingstone and St Mary Church; contact Barbara on 01446 734686.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

First FocusBARRY candidate for Barry by-election

FocusBARRY, the community group aiming to promote the needs and aspirations of Barry people, have chosen their candidate to fight the forthcoming Barry Town Council by-election in Dyfan ward – Jeffrey Heathfield.

Jeff, who grew up and was schooled in the ward, said: "I am delighted to be chosen to represent FocusBARRY. I fully

support the values and principles and the new direction of FocusBARRY putting what's best for Barry before politics.

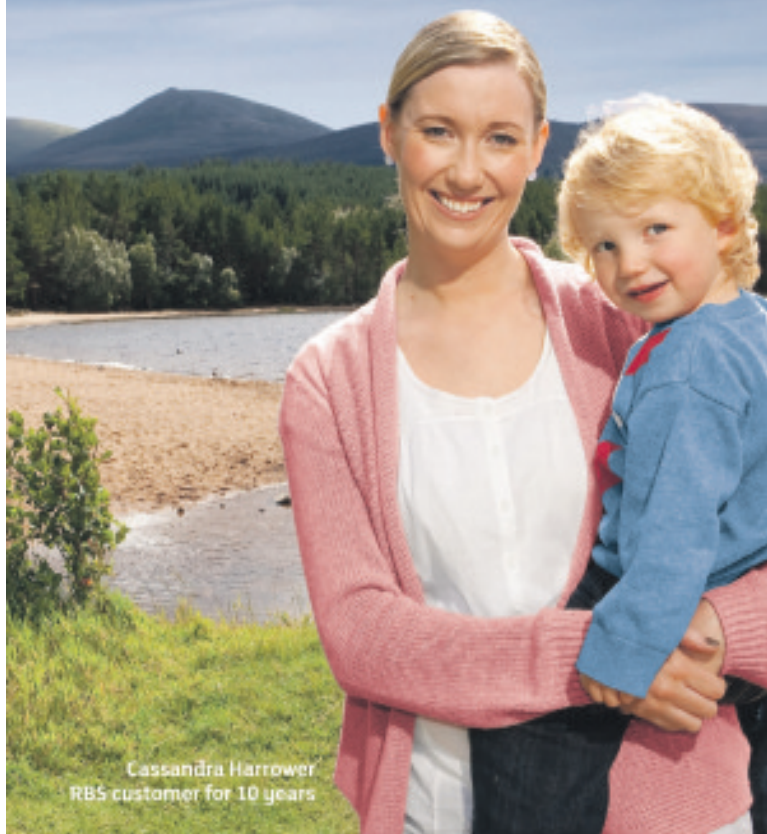
"Too many decisions made by politicians are not in the best interest of the town, but are the result of political bickering and to get one over each other.

"If elected, I will do my very best to represent the Dyfan community and work to address their issues and concerns."

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FALLS LEAD TO FRACTURES!

Weather takes its toll as hundreds slip on icy streets

ALMOST 400 people were treated in the casualty department of the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, over the weekend.

Staff in the emergency department saw 184 patients on Saturday (December 4) and 186 on Sunday (December 5). Many had sustained injuries from falling on ice and staff reported that black ice had been a particular problem, with patients not seeing the ice until it was too late.

A and E consultant Mike McCabe, from the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board, said that the majority of slips and falls, resulting in fractures, happened within five to 10 yards of people's homes.

He warned that their own drives, paths and gardens were the most dangerous areas and advised people to stay indoors if at all possible until the present icy weather has ended.

"Don't worry about putting out the bins or feeding the birds. They can wait. What's important is that you stay safe during this exceptionally

cold snap." He added that while most of those with fractures have been fitted with plaster casts and sent home, a significant number have been admitted for surgery.

There was also an increase in the number of emergency patients with serious chest infections.

However, a drop in the number of people arriving at casualty with minor conditions resulted in staff being freed up to deal with the injured, along with other seriously-ill patients attending A and E.

Mr McCabe said that people had been visiting their GPs instead of hospitals and this had been very helpful in preventing numbers attending casualty departments from getting too high.

1,086 are treated in three days
CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board reported that over the course of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1,086 people were treated in the accident and emergency unit for a variety of injuries.

Many were linked to the cold, with icy conditions causing a large number of trips and falls.

Jennie Palmer, acting lead nurse at accident and emergency, was on a day off at the weekend when she heard how busy it was. She and other staff gave up their free time, headed into work and helped treat patients.

"All the staff have pulled together to make sure we are continuing to see people as quickly as possible and that they get the best possible treatment".

On Monday, staff continued to see a large number of injuries caused by the cold weather with broken wrists, legs and a broken back all being treated.

Around 272 people had attended the unit by 5pm on Monday night.

Castleland events

CASTLELAND Community Centre will hold a carol service, with a Santa's grotto, on December 15 (7pm-9pm) and a Community Christmas party on December 17 (6.30pm-8.30pm).

St Athan mum's Cowbridge ceilidh aims to raise funds for Marie Curie Penarth

A CEILIDH is being held at Cowbridge Town Hall this Friday night, as part of a St Athan woman's attempt to raise money to walk the Great Wall of China for Marie Curie, Penarth.

Tracy Stubbington told The GEM: "I am appealing to people in St Athan, Cowbridge and surrounding areas to support the ceilidh tomorrow - we've sold between 40 and 50 tickets, but hoped to sell 100

"I am a 43-year-old single mum and I live locally. My aim is to raise £3,000 to allow me to do The Great Wall of China Trek in September 2011 in aid of the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth.

"The ceilidh will be held tomorrow, Friday, December 10, at the Town Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm - 11pm.

"During my work as a housekeeper, I have known a number of elderly people who have



ABOVE:
Tracy Stubbington will be walking part of the Great Wall of China next year to raise funds for the local Marie Curie hospice.

had cancer and know about the fantastic work they do at Marie Curie - I really admire them."

Fundraisers like Tracy enable the work at the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth to continue, as a local spokeswoman explained: "To take part in this trek, Tracy must raise a minimum sponsorship of £2,950.

"It is an enormous challenge but every penny raised will go towards the Marie Curie

Hospice Penarth. "It costs £3.9million a year to run the hospice."

Tracy said: "The walk next year will be nine hours a day for five days, and people who take part experience spartan overnight stays in tents - there are no hotels on the route!"

"Participants will start on the Great Wall of China, but the trek includes a march up a mountain, before returning to the Great Wall for the final leg.

"I'd be grateful if people would come along and support this event."

A live band of local musicians called Thingamijigs will be appearing at the ceilidh and tickets are £5, available from W.G.Davies Newsagents, Cowbridge, Blockley's Barbers, Boverton, and Rio's Boutique, Llantwit Major.

Tracy added: "To check on late availability for tickets people can ring 01446 773408." Tickets will also be available on the door.

Santa boards his sleigh for more Vale visits...

THE Rotary Club of Dinas Powys will be taking the Father Christmas sleigh around the village on the following dates, weather permitting:
December 17 from 6pm-7.30pm (Southra/Sunnycroft area); December 18 from 4pm-6.30pm (Murch/Valley View area); December 19 from 4pm-6.30pm (Eastbrook/Millbrook Heights area); December 20 from 6pm-7.30pm (Sully).

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Daf Schofield, director of The Firewood Company, explained: "We strive to ensure that, by using our reliable, quality wood products, our customers are never disappointed."

"We sell seasoned, barn-dried hardwood logs in varying sizes, kindling and briquettes for open fires, woodstoves and chimineas – for collection or delivery; and made-to-order log-stores for storage solutions, Ecofans, charcoal, log-baskets and axes."

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Daf went on: "Our timber is stored undercover in our yards and then dried in poly tunnels in individual cubic metre crates."

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Tough decisions, but are WAG's policies right ones for Wales?

THERE was a significant amount of attention in the Press last week when the Education Minister made a statement highlighting that students from Wales will not pay the higher level of fees and they would be subsidised by the taxpayer.

There was much derision and the Welsh Assembly Government basked in the glory.

Of course, that is the Assembly Government's prerogative, but don't be fooled – I don't think anyone would disagree with their objectives, but they do of course need to be funded.

The clear goal for us all is to secure world class universities and opportunities for young people and mature students to study higher education that is in their and the nation's interest.

World class teaching and research, against increasing competition from Australia, the US and elsewhere, will attract international students to support our universities and students, both financially and culturally.

Universities in Wales are already the poorest-funded across the UK. The funding gap will now widen further and risks that world class reputation that I have already mentioned.

Until recently, there was a policy in place where Welsh or EU students studying at a Welsh university didn't have to pay top-up fees.

However, WAG said earlier this year that even this lower level of subsidy was unsustainable.

Already WAG funds schools here in Wales to a lower level than in England with poorer outcomes, health is funded to a lower level, with longer waiting lists and you are



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

more likely to be unemployed.

Last Friday, I visited students at the Barry College of Further Education.

I spoke to a mature student, who had three children – one 12-year-old son with special educational needs, and two other daughters, 16 and 17 years old where both girls hope to go to university.

She was initially delighted by the Assembly Government statement that she will not be liable for the increase in higher education fees for her daughters, but she also complained that a course for SEN pupils had been cut elsewhere. It was a course

that had a fantastic record of enabling SEN students to achieve normal gainful employment – thus not making them dependent on the State.

If that course and similar types of courses are cut to subsidise student fees, it is a fair question to ask, which of the three children had the greatest capacity to fund their education to employment – the 12-year-old boy with SEN or his sisters, who would be asked to repay their student fees after they have graduated and after they are earning £21,000?

The answer is obvious and the mum agreed.

Under the proposals, the repayment will amount to £30 per month for a graduate earning £25K, much less than the current repayment structure, which works out at £75 per month.

Wales is not protecting the NHS budget, it opted not to protect schools budgets; university vice-chancellors are terrified that their university status, reputation and ranking is at risk – and they are even frightened to speak out publicly because of the culture that the Education Minister in Wales has created.

Similarly, the Cancer Drug Fund available in England to offer life-extending treatment life will not be available in Wales and it may be crude to ask that if you were a student suffering from cancer in the Vale, which would be your priority?

There are difficult decisions to be made in Wales as elsewhere, but I am not sure whether WAG's priorities reflect those demanded in the Vale.

'Anti-social behaviour will be targeted over Christmas' police warn

DRUNKEN, rowdy and anti-social behaviour are the focus of a four-week Christmas crackdown by the Safer Vale Partnership.

As Christmas approaches, lots of people will be heading out on the town to celebrate, but police are warning that excessive drunkenness, vandalism and public order offences will not be tolerated.

Over the next four weeks, officers will be carrying out extra high-visibility patrols and Chief Inspector Jim Hall said:

"Everyone should be able to enjoy themselves over Christmas, but the festivities are no excuse for bad behaviour. Lots of people will be getting together to celebrate and our aim is to ensure these celebrations are not ruined by a minority who take it too far."

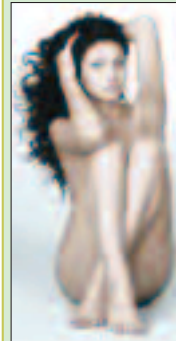
"Anyone thinking about committing acts of anti-social behaviour should be aware we are looking out for them."

CHRISTMAS MARKET
PETERSTON Christmas market and craft fair will be held on Saturday, December 11, from 10am-2pm in Peterston-Super-Ely Church and community hall.

There will be a wide range of craft stalls plus homemade cakes and produce, jams, chutneys and pickles, Christmas plants and decorations; dancers and carol singers. Entry is free and all profits go towards upkeep of the hall.

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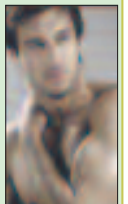
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Ewenny Arts Festival wins Senedd praise



Plaid AM Chris Franks and Mari Major.

PLAID regional AM Chris Franks is pictured with Mari Major from the Ewenny Arts Festival at the Senedd, during a celebration of the Kick Start grant scheme operated by Vale Centre of Voluntary Services.

Mari highlighted some of the events taking place during the festival. One concert at Ewenny Priory Church is 'The Four Seasons by Candlelight' with the Vale of Glamorgan Ensemble on December 17.

Mr Franks commented: "I have already raised the issue of funding for Vale of Glamorgan voluntary groups with Welsh Ministers and the Vale Council, after I met the Wales Council for Voluntary Action."

"It was, therefore, a pleasure to hear about the good work that voluntary groups do across the Vale, like the Ewenny Arts Festival."

"During these difficult financial times, it is important that the work that is done by voluntary groups is supported and maintained," he added.

Atlantic Trading Estate targeted by thieves £80,000 worth of damage in local copper cable raid

BARRY police are investigating the theft of a considerable amount of copper cable from Atlantic Trading Estate – which resulted in an estimated £80,000 worth of damage, along with the loss of power to a number of businesses.

Thieves struck overnight on Friday, November 19.

It is believed the current spike in metal thefts is linked to a rise in the market value of copper, fuelled by increased demand from India and China.

Police in the Vale are now warning businesses to be vigilant and to review their security arrangements following an increasing number of metal thefts reported nationwide.

In recent weeks, a slide was stolen from a playground in Neath Port Talbot and copper wires were stripped one night from the railway line linking Treherbert and Pontypridd.

Detective Chief Inspector Marc Lamerton said: "There is a common perception of metal thieves being loveable rogues.

"People need to wake up to the fact that they are, in fact, highly organised and skilled gangs of criminals, who more than likely have links to other forms of serious and organised crime.

"Most of us presume that if we see men in yellow jackets working on phone lines or power cables, then they must have someone's permission.

"I would encourage everyone to question what they see: if the vans, the uniforms, the time of day or the behaviour doesn't seem right to you, then contact your local police station or Crimestoppers."

If anyone saw anything suspicious in the vicinity of Atlantic Trading Estate overnight between Friday November 19 and the following day, please contact Barry CID on 01446 731606 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Chickens are not home to roost after 'fowl' crime

POLICE in the Vale are investigating an extremely unusual crime – the theft of a chicken shed, along with its inhabitants, six chickens.

The theft took place some time between 5pm on Friday, December 3 and 9am the following morning.

The large, home-made chicken shed was located at new allotments on Warren Mill Farm, between Bonvilston and the Hensol Forest Block.

Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PC Mark Goulding said: "This chicken house was home made and therefore unique, one of a kind.

"This is the second theft of chickens in the Vale in recent months and I ask anyone who keeps chickens to make sure they are secured at night in an immovable coop."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact PC Mark Goulding at Cowbridge Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. 111.



ABOVE:
The distinctive – now stolen – chicken shed.

BROADBAND: Colwinston's problems raised in the Senedd

PLAID Cymru AM Chris Franks has highlighted the problems that face villagers in Colwinston when trying to get a broadband connection.

The Plaid AM did so during rural affairs questions in the Senedd.

He said: "I want to highlight the problem in some villages in the Vale, and in many towns centres in my region.

"I am aware that problems with broadband have recently been raised at a meeting of Colwinston Community Council. One villager had to pay for a satellite link, because the copper link is not reliable enough for their business activities.

"Claims made by internet providers can be unreliable, because none can get over the problems of broadband connectivity. While the Welsh Government has invested in support to address the problem, the

UK Government has shown a lack of respect by ignoring Wales in the rollout of its superfast broadband pilot schemes."

The rural affairs minister, Elin Jones, replied: "At the Royal Welsh Show this year, the Assembly Government launched its grant support package to fund the installation of a broadband solution for individuals and communities."

The broadband support scheme enables individuals and communities in Wales' remaining broadband 'notspots' to approach service providers directly, with support of Assembly Government funding. Support is available for up to a maximum of £1,000 for individual premises.

A broadband 'notspot' is usually the result of the distance a person lives from their local telephone exchange – the further away they are, the weaker the broadband signal becomes.

BARRY HIGH STREET WINNERS COLLECT SHOPS VOUCHERS

HIGH Street Traders have announced the latest winners in their 2010 monthly prize draw.

Val of Barry collected £100 of High Street shopping vouchers from Nicky of Miss Holmes, where she bought the winning ticket.

Another lucky winner, Judith of Barr received £100 of High Street shopping vouchers from Tony of Tony's Café, where she bought her winning ticket, joined by Sharon of MJM Computers.

DJ, AJ of Bro Radio 98.1 FM, drew the winning tickets.

Due to the success of the monthly raffle, High Street Traders have a wonderful display of Christmas lights and Chairman, Anthony Hopkins said: "I would like to thank everyone who has bought raffle tickets throughout the year; if it wasn't for you, our lights would not have been possible."



Val receives her prize from Nicky.



ABOVE:
Judith receives her shopping vouchers.

Open letter from Felix the cat...

*My name is Felix, I am the cat that must beg all a pardon.
Letters in The GEM abound 'Cos I've been in your garden.
I'm sorry, folks, but unlike you, I'm not a clever soul and do not know if I am wrong when I need to dig a hole.
So please be forgiving, I'm not to blame.
I don't mean to be a pest,
I'm just a little animal
And try to do my best.
I try to be as clean as I can,
Not like Rex or Rover;
And when I've done the business,
I even cover it over....*

£30,000 donation to create Ty Hafan's new playground

DOW CORNING, Barry, has donated almost £30,000 towards a new disabled-friendly playground for Ty Hafan hospice in Sully.

With more than 95 per cent of the children wheelchair bound, the new playground has been designed to take all disabilities and ages into consideration. It will feature a wheelchair roundabout, trampoline (used for

rebound therapy), race track and slides.

Work on the new playground is due to start in the next few months, after completion of the new hydrotherapy pool.

"To have a company such as Dow Corning, which is so local to the hospice, give us this kind of support is absolutely fantastic," said Frank Ady from Ty Hafan, which has provided care and support for more than 400 children,

young people and their families since it opened in 1999.

"The playground will be sited on the south side of the building, which has a wonderful view of the sea and will provide an ideal environment for children of all abilities who come to stay here.

"On their behalf I would like to thank Dow Corning and all its employees for making this possible."



Dave Ott, site manager of Dow Corning, Johanne Stacey, occupational health team leader at Dow Corning, an employee at Dow Corning, and Frank Ady from Ty Hafan.

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£120 million already spent will 'not be wasted' – MP insists 'St Athan project is still viable next year'

VALE MP Alun Cairns told a public meeting in Llantwit Major that he will be pressing Defence Secretary Liam Fox for a decision on the future of the St Athan camp by March 31.

Mr Cairns was the main speaker at the meeting in the town's Youth Centre, which was organised by Llantwit town councillor Dave Lane.

Coun Lane said that many local people were concerned about what was likely to happen to the camp in the wake of the decision by the government to drop the Metrix consortium's £14 billion plans to build and run the Defence Technical College.

The meeting was attended by residents of the town, as well as people from St Athan and Llanmaes. Also present was regional AM Andrew RT Davies.

Mr Cairns told the meeting he had come along to update local people on the position with St Athan. He had met Liam Fox last week and was due to meet him again before Christmas.

He said that the original proposal was to reduce nine military training sites down to one – the Defence Technical College at St Athan.

Metrix was the preferred bidder for that scheme and PFI (the Private Finance Initiative) was an important element as it would have raised the money to finance the project, and the MoD would have paid it back over 30 years.

But Mr Cairns said that the bond market and the financial markets, where the money would have been raised, were now very different to what they were six years ago when the project was devised.

"The difficulties that exist now with banks and the availability of finance would have had an impact on the costs to the MoD."

He went on: "The statement that came from the MoD clearly said as a consequence, the Metrix scheme was not a viable option and not a cost-effective solution to deliver the project."

"But they emphasised that this applied only to the Metrix issue and not to St Athan, which remains the preferred solution for defence training. St Athan remains viable, but Metrix is not."

Mr Cairns said that the £120m already spent on preparation for the project will not be lost because St Athan remains viable.

The money spent on

things such as surveys, assessments and plans gave St Athan an advantage when the new defence training solution is decided.

He added: "What has not been so public are the security issues. Bringing nine sites down to one would create a potential security problem."

"In the six years since the single option was put forward, things have changed and latest analysis favours reducing the nine sites down to two or three and this is the most likely to happen with training spread around the UK."

Mr Cairns insisted that St Athan remained the front runner for one of the training sites because of all the work already done, the money already spent and also because of the level of community support for the project.

He added that most of the other eight sites were dilapidated, as they had been expecting to close and a lot of money would have to be spent. This had already happened at St Athan.

Mr Cairns said that the MoD was working closely with the Vale Council to sign off some of the remaining planning issues and there were no plans to sell off the site.

The MP stated that although there were concerns in the community about the houses planned "outside the wire" for the Tremains Farm site and the new northern access road, neither could go ahead unless the training college scheme also goes ahead.

Planning conditions laid down by the Vale would prevent that.

Mr Cairns said that the new college, if approved, would be smaller than the one originally proposed, which would mean there may not be the need for all the extra new housing, which would please many local people.

He said that there was a possibility that everything could be contained within the wire of the camp, with no need for development outside at Llanmaes.

Mr Cairns stated that until the new scheme was announced, nobody could be sure of what was happening.

"I have been told by Liam Fox that by March 31, they will make a statement on the way forward," he said.

"That's why I want to see him again. I want to nail this down. I don't want this running on and one on – it's not fair to the community."

Mr Cairns said that he had received no response to his queries to the Welsh Assembly Government about the status of the compulsory purchase orders needed for the scheme, or of the

outcome of the public inquiry into them.

Mr Cairns said he had also written to deputy first minister Ieuan Wyn Jones because there should be a partnership between the MoD and WAG to ensure that the project had the political drive and support to be delivered. He has had no reply.

He said that it was possible that a smaller project at St Athan would see the construction carried out by a private company, but the training delivered by the MoD itself.

Coun Bob Gant asked if St Athan could be used to accommodate British soldiers returning to the UK as bases are closed in Germany.

Mr Cairns said that there were plans to accelerate the return of the army from Germany. He added: "While it is an option for them to come here, at the moment the view is still defence training. There are no plans to sell off any MoD sites that could be used by the return of the army."

Coun Roger Eustace of St Athan Community Council asked what would happen to the land purchased that was outside the camp and may no longer be needed.

"The community needs to know what's going on – we are left in a hiatus," he added.

Mr Cairns replied that there had been a lot of false dawns with regard to the project and he pointed out that even if the original Metrix scheme had gone ahead, it would have employed 2,000 fewer people than DARA did at its peak.

He said that the Metrix scheme was blown up to sound bigger than it was actually going to be.

"I have been at meetings where Metrix was being promoted as the answer to every problem in the Vale. We need to be absolutely honest about what was actually happening."

He stated that March 31 gave the community a time frame to work from.

"We will then know how defence training will evolve. That's when we will be told which sites are being considered. We will be able to press the case for St Athan."

"I cannot promise that something will happen, but it is the preferred location for defence training."

Andrew Davies AM said that it was the Welsh Assembly Government that owned the land outside the wire, as they had acquired it on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

"We must not take our eye off the ball with the land. WAG must come forward with plans for it."

Coun Eustace warned

that even if the farmland was given back to farmers in the form of tenancies, long term it could still be developed.

Mr Cairns said that St Athan had an advantage because three years preparatory work had already been done on the site.

"We are in a strong position but it is not guaranteed," he warned. "I would also like to say that even if this college goes ahead, the Vale will need further economic regeneration."

He added that many local people had written to him stating that they welcomed the demise of the Metrix scheme, but still wanted something to happen at St Athan.

Mr Cairns promised to keep on the case, especially as 3,000 troops stationed at St Athan had just left, hitting trade in the area.

Andrew Davies said it was a brave decision of the government to scrap Metrix, as the cost had increased from £11 billion to £14 billion.

"Three billion pounds will run health and social care in Wales for six months, so they were right to not allow for that increase, but the right decision now needs to be taken on March 31."

ON THE NIGHT PATROL WITH POLICE IN BARRY

by ALUN CAIRNS, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan

CHILD Protection, burglary, affray, and drug offences were just some of the cases that our police officers across the Vale had to contend with when I joined them on a night shift.

It started with a call from another local authority's social services department, who were concerned that a father of a child under their watch was at risk of taking the infant overseas. Thankfully, this wasn't the case but naturally, such rumours needed to be addressed.

Later that evening, as we were driving past a pub in Barry, there appeared to be a scuffle in the doorway.

The officers ran from the van to stop what turned out to be a hand-to-hand sale of drugs.

Two officers had to split up four or five men, each officer seeking to protect the other.

One of the officers used his 'red button' to call for help, which thankfully led to more support. I started to call 999 for help.

Seeing one man kick and punch another was quite upsetting; for the police officer – however, being upset wasn't an option. They had to intervene, in spite of

being outnumbered. One by-stander shouted, 'he's got a knife'.

Thankfully, this wasn't the case but this statement transformed the situation. The police took complete control.

Several men were arrested and taken to the custody suite in Cardiff Bay. When we later looked at the CCTV footage, it was difficult to recognise the same incident.

All was clearly visible but not hearing any noise or shouting removed the intensity and alarm I had just witnessed.

Earlier that evening, a drug addict had been stopped and there were questions about potential 'dealing'. This led to a search of his premises.

I cannot go into detail, but the most startling fact was that a full police search was a mere inconvenience to them, such is the regularity of their interaction.

There was also a need to wait for a female officer to arrive in order to search the housemates in person. This was normal activity to the defendants, which underlined to me what is meant by the phrase, 'broken society'.

By 4am, activity seemed to have calmed down, until we received a call over the radio of two men breaking into a



ABOVE: Mr Cairns, about to join the police on patrol.

derelict property in the rural Vale.

We travelled some distance with the blue light flashing and as we approached the address, we saw two men matching the description walking along the road.

Dogs were called and tracked the scent directly to the two in question. The helicopter was also on hand.

This was the second time for me to work a shift with the Police, the first being some years ago. That occasion, reported in The GEM, proved to be one of my most fascinating experiences.

This was no different and again, I pay tribute to the officers that I had the privilege to observe.

The police officers I joined did a fantastic

job; their professionalism was unquestioned, their work ethic admirable and their commitment to doing the right thing and serving the community was commendable.

Above all, the message I took away was that whatever the event or incident, the police are the safety net, left to pick up the pieces. Be it drugs, affray, child protection or burglary, they are left to cope not knowing the full risks.

There will be debates about the resources available and numbers of officers on patrol but I can only testify that with the small numbers of officers I witnessed, they have an extremely difficult task and we owe them our recognition and support.

Young Jack over the moon to meet Shane Williams



Pictured above is Jack Forsyth the grandson of Mrs McKinnis our recent prize draw winner.

Mrs McKinnis was presented her prize of two tickets to the Wales V New Zealand Autumn Rugby International in Cardiff, by IRB world rugby player of the year 2008/9 Mr Shane Williams.

Jack was over the moon to meet Shane Williams. Shane spent nearly an hour chatting and signing mementums for Jack and his friends from his local school in Pontyclun.



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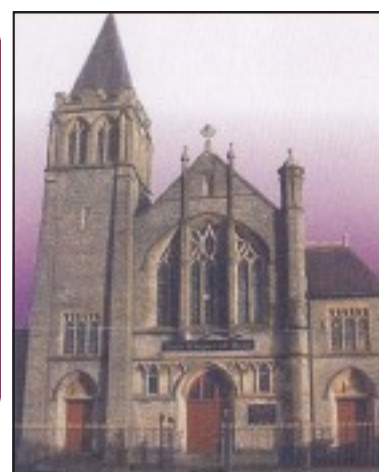
All our cats have been neutered and microchipped. Some are a little nervous as they are used to older people who might have had to give them up to go into homes themselves, leaving their companion behind. These would

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While you're still in good health, it's far easier to talk about these things, so now could be an appropriate time to think about what you would like.

If you communicate your wishes in advance, organising your funeral can be much less difficult for your relatives.

People who have let others know their wishes are far more likely to get the sort of send-off that those closest to them will find more relevant, meaningful and personal.

Drawing up a 'funeral wish list' means that you can specify details, such as whether you would prefer a simple or more elaborate service, which type of coffin you would like and a list of favourite music, readings or poems.

This preparation helps to create an occasion that suits you and takes away the burden from surviving family members, who may otherwise wonder if they did the right thing.

It also gives them permission not to spend a fortune on the funeral and eliminates disagreements that may occur between relatives who are fixed on their own ideas of how it should be.

The following website provide useful information: www.mylastsong.com; www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk; and www.naturalburialgrounds.com

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WHEN a person dies, someone, usually a family member, has the responsibility of dealing with that person's estate. This may include establishing what assets and liabilities that person had and working out whether a 'Grant of Probate' will be needed to administer the estate. This is a daunting task under normal circumstances, but for many people may feel a great deal more burdensome mixed with feelings of grief and distress.

Usually the first thing to do is to establish whether there is a will in existence and to make a note of the fact that the estate is to be distributed in accordance with that will.

A will may be held with the solicitor that drew it up or in a safe custody box with a bank. A personal representative is usually appointed in the will to deal with the deceased person's estate, also known as an executor.

A Grant of Probate is issued by the Probate Registry, upon the submission of certain information based on the person's estate. It gives the personal representative authority to deal with

the deceased person's estate and allows them to access money held in banks, building societies or other investments. It also authorises the personal representative to sell the deceased person's home.

Once all funds have been collected in and all commitments have been paid, the personal representative may distribute the estate to the beneficiaries as set out in the will, or if no will, then in accordance with the rules of intestacy, which are a set of rules setting out who is to benefit.

The personal representative may also have to deal with the payment of inheritance tax if the estate exceeds the current threshold. Other responsibilities may include defending a claim against the estate, should this arise.

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Coping with anniversaries or reminders of someone that you have loved...

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE, the national charity, points out there are many events that evoke memories of the death of someone close – some are personal and obvious, such as a wedding anniversary or birthday, and others are more unpredictable, like a piece of music, a smell or a particular TV programme.

Anniversaries and reminders can evoke powerful memories and feelings which are distinctly personal. These days or events, which mean so much to one person, may be ordinary to others who may not understand what is happening.

Just as each relationship and each bereavement is unique, so too are the feelings evoked by reminders. For some people, anniversaries can evoke fond and happy memories, while for others they can create feelings of sadness, grief, fear, regret and anger.

Another disturbing feeling that can be evoked by a reminder is guilt – guilt at what has been said or done, guilt concerning what was left unsaid, and even guilt at having forgotten or not thought about the dead person for a period of time.

What can help?

It helps to accept that, when grieving, there are some occasions which will be very difficult and then to work out how best to manage them. Spend some time trying to work out, well in advance, which arrangements will best suit your needs and the needs of others who share your loss.

Some people try to avoid the pain of certain events by making sure they are away from the people and places which bring sad thoughts and memories. But you may feel it is important to mark the day in a way that is special for you and for the person who has died and whose loss you mourn.

What is important is that what you do will have some special private meaning for you and those close to you.

Some people find solace in religious and cultural practices which help individuals and groups remember the dead and celebrate their lives and work.

Others find they prefer something more personal, and some people do nothing at all other than maintain their routine and normal life.

The uncertainty and anxiety surrounding death may lead to fixed ideas and thinking, but it is important to remember that people recall and forget the dead in their own ways.

As time passes, anniversaries and reminders can help us to begin to focus on happy memories of good times shared in the past.

If you need more information on how to cope with bereavement, there is more information on the website: www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk/; or email helpline@cruse.org.uk.

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GEM family notices are published in all four local editions from Penarth to Porthcawl. If you would like us to help you with wording or style, please contact us for some gentle advice.

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PJE Solicitors draw up wills to help ones you love...

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You also need to consider tax planning. It needn't be taxing – and drawing up a will won't kill you! Call PJE Solicitors today on 01443 408647 for further advice.

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Staff will be pleased to provide further information on the full range of services available at the Crematorium, upon request. Please address your enquiries to:

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Email: joanna.hamilton@bridgend.gov.uk
coychurchcrematorium@bridgend.gov.uk

SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Father Christmas (Coun Clive James) on his way to meet children, with elf Coun Luke Ellis.



Coun Paula James, chair of Pyle Community Council, at Santa's Grotto.



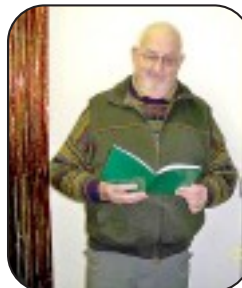
COMMUNITY NEWS from
KENFIG HILL AND PYLE
by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

RIGHT:
Poet and writer
Brynmor Evans.
see 'New local book'



Choir's link with church is shown in friendship concert

THE annual on *On My Own; Castles in the Clouds and Bring Him Home.*
Friendship concert at the weekend, held in St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend, delighted the capacity congregation, with all three participating choirs and organ soloist, **Scott Williams**, receiving rousing applause.

Scott opened the programme, followed by the John Jenkins-led men's choir Bridgend Male Choir.

Speaking of the choir, Father William Isaac commented on the "friendship and welcome at Bridgend Male Choir's spiritual home".

He went on to compliment both Scott and the choristers for their rendition of *Lead Kindly Light*, the words of which were written by Cardinal Newman, who was beatified during Pope Benedict's UK visit earlier this year.

Father Isaac also welcomed Cantorion Pontyclun back to the church. The ladies, under Helen Wilson, went on to spellbind those present with a varied contribution, including the song made popular by Eva Cassidy, *Songbird*, before bringing the house down with its medley from *Les Miserables* with solo contributions

on *On My Own; Castles in the Clouds and Bring Him Home.*
Bridgend Male Choir's piano accompanist, Laura Smith, expertly played with both choirs.

A hugely popular contribution to the evening's entertainment came from the children of St Mary's Catholic School Choir. Bringing a seasonal choral addition, the smartly turned-out youngsters performed with enthusiasm and their joy of performing could be seen in every young face.

Their music teacher, the school and the church can be proud of them.

Bridgend Male Choir's final concert of 2010 is at the Christmas tree festival on Saturday, December 11, at 7pm at St Mary's Nolton Church.

The choir will include traditional items before moving on to Christmas carols and other seasonal pieces. Accompanying the choir will be soprano, Jennifer Walker.

The Bridgend choir's popular organ accompanist, Scott Williams, will again be performing solo items. The choir will be led again by musical director, John Jenkins, and accompanied by pianist Laura Smith.

Tickets £6, available from the parish office and the church.

Santa (and his trusty elf) switch on the festive lights at Kenfig Hill

Lighting up ceremony
ONCE again, a large crowd turned out to see Santa switch on the Christmas lights by the Monument, at the Top Cross in Kenfig Hill.

However, it started to rain and they were unable to remain outdoors for carol singing, but it didn't dampen the enjoyment.

Everyone quickly filed into the Talbot Community Centre, where the excited children were able to go into Santa's Grotto to meet Father Christmas and his Elves.

To round off the evening, the community centre provided a disco for the children, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Many thanks to the Chair of PCC, Coun Paula James, Eileen and Ken Peakman, who spent the whole day building a magnificent grotto, Father Christmas and his Elf (Coun Clive James and Coun Luke Ellis). The Talbot Community Centre for providing the venue and the disco, and to our

neighbourhood policing team for making it such a memorable evening.

New local book

A LOCAL man, retired steelworks ambulance driver, Brynmor Evans, called into the Luncheon Club at the Talbot Community Centre last Friday to present his third book of stories, poems and other items, written in aid of charity.

His first book was in aid of the Macmillan Nurses, with the second in aid of the Sandvile Self Help Centre, where he does voluntary work as a Reiki master.

This new book, entitled *Bumping into Brynmor*, contains stories, poems, humorous items and a true story about the Taibach man who put the flair into French rugby.

At just £3, it would make an ideal Christmas present. It would also help Ty-Hafan Children's hospice, which will receive £1 from each book sold.

It is available at Arlene's Florist, Jeff Kent, gents hairdresser in Kenfig, Cornelly Hardware Stores or

direct from the author at 2, Fairways, North Cornelly, CF33 4DH.

For information regarding this publication, ring Brynmor on 01656 742008. This is a great opportunity to support such a worthy cause at this time of year.

Police role-play

LAST Friday, December 3, PC McGill and PC Jones from the mounted section, were invited by Pil Primary, Pyle, to give the children a brief insight into the role of a Police Horse.

The children were able to ask questions and participate in role-play, after which the horses were able to show off their highly skilled roles within the police.

Stars in Your Eyes

NAMES are being taken for the 'Stars in Your Eyes 2011' competition in the Royal Oak, Kenfig Hill. Due to alterations, it will be held later than normal, either at the end of January or beginning of February, the date to be announced.

As usual, all the proceeds from this popular

annual event will be donated to the Sandvile Self Help Foundation.

For further information, or to enter, ring Mark or Tina on 01656 740031.

Pupils impress

SEVEN pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School were nominated for impressing the staff at the school during the last week.

Particular congratulations go to two pupils, Lowri Thomas from class 3 and Leon Jones from class 4, who both won the headteacher's award.

The school choir will be performing at the Christmas carol services in St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill on Sunday, December 12 at 3pm, and at Pisgah Chapel with the Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir on Monday, December 13.

The choir will be back in St Theodore's Church for the school carol service on Thursday, December 16, at 10am.

Junior craft class

ONCE again, it was great to hear the excited young voices at the junior craft class,

which was held in the Talbot Community Centre last Saturday.

At least 30 children and their parents turned up. With the craft club donating the materials required and members, Paula James, Val Davies, Gina Hooper, Pam King and Eileen Peakman giving up their Saturday morning to instruct them, it proved to be very productive and popular.

The youngsters went home in a happy mood, having made lovely handcrafted cards and exploding boxes filled with sweets, provided by Paula, to hang on the Christmas trees for their mums and dads.

Theo's opens!

THE new Kenfig Hill parish shop and community space, called Theo's, opened last Monday at 45, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill.

The first 50 customers were welcomed with mulled wine and mince pies.

It is hoped that the shop will be well supported, as it the income from it that helps keep the Church open.

(See page 29 for pictures from the opening day.)

Llamau appeal

LLAMAU is appealing for donations for the homeless young people and vulnerable women it will be supporting through the festive period.

Spokeswoman Deborah Holland said: "Christmas can be an incredibly difficult time for those using our services. We always make sure that everyone with us over the festive period receives a small gift, and the opportunity to enjoy a good meal with their housemates and support workers."

"This year, with our services facing cuts in funding, we are relying

on your support more than ever. We are appealing to you to donate anything you feel may make a suitable Christmas present for a teenager or woman of any age.

"We would appreciate donations of any size and type, including any unwanted gifts you receive before and after Christmas."

"We will gratefully accept all items, including food, but not perishables or alcohol, please."

Donations can be left at your nearest Llamau office, which can be found at www.llamau.org.uk or by calling the head office on 029 2023 9585.

NEWS FROM THE LIONS CLUB OF BRIDGEND

SANTA SHOWS HIS CHARITABLE SIDE!



LEFT: The photo shows one delighted young visitor who had just seen Santa in his grotto.

BRIDGEND Lions are delighted that Santa Claus and his elves have accepted the club's invitation to come to the new grotto made for them in Bridgend town centre – though Santa did have one very special request.

He asked if the Lions Club would support one of his favourite charities, Y Bont, the special school in Bridgend which helps disabled and pre-school children to lead fulfilling lives. Naturally, the club said, "Yes, Santa, it'll be our pleasure!"

So, with his elves, Santa has arrived

on his sleigh with a sackful of toys and he thought how very pretty the grotto looked too, almost like his home in Lapland.

Santa says that all good children who want to visit him can come along to his grotto.

It's in Dunraven Place, Bridgend, opposite the main Post Office and he'll be there on Saturdays, December 11 and 18 between 10am and 4pm.

An admission charge includes a Christmas gift of the child's choice and a photo with Santa – but all profits from the grotto will go to Y Bont, whose wonderful work is described on their web site www.ybont.com



ABOVE:
Father Christmas passing the Dykstra family from Kenfig Hill.

PORTHCAWL MAYOR PUT BEHIND BARS!

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THE Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis, her consort, Bobbie Lewis, and Peter Fenton of Carconomy, were welcomed to Porthcawl Police Station by Chief Superintendent Carl Davies accompanied by Superintendent Steve Furnham and Inspector Alan James.

The mayoral party were given a tour of the station to examine the facilities which exist there from the inside!

There was also a good opportunity for the force to display the four new bikes that were funded by Porthcawl Town Council and supplied, specially built and modified free of charge for the use of the local PCs and PCSOs, by Peter Fenton of Carconomy.



ABOVE: Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis, and consort Bobbie Lewis, are pictured being welcomed to Porthcawl Police Station by (left to right) Inspector Alan James, Sgt Mike Davies and Chief Superintendent Carl Davies.



ABOVE: Touring the station and meeting the staff.



ABOVE: A brief moment behind bars!



LEFT: An officer with one of the bikes supplied by the town council.

Porthcawl may raise a statue to The King... (ELVIS, THAT IS!)

A STATUE of 'The King' could be erected in Porthcawl.

Neath resident Clive Stovell has contacted Porthcawl Town Council, urging them to place a life-sized statue of Elvis Presley (with his famous cape spread ceremonially), in a prominent position on the esplanade near the Grand Pavilion.

Mr Stovell said that the town, which hosts the annual Elvis Festival, attracts visitors from all over the world because of this connection.

He wrote: "The Porthcawl Elvis Festival is now the world-wide acknowledged centre of Elvis tribute artists excel-

lence. A life sized statue of the King would surely bring the Elvis legend into the town, adding tourism, public appraisal and also give the Grand Pavilion increased recognition."

The matter is due to be discussed at the town council meeting tonight, Thursday. The council's Conservative group leader, David Deere, felt it was an interesting idea and it should be referred to a council sub committee, so that members can explore the suggestion in more detail.

• What do GEM readers think of the idea? If you have a view, write to us via the contact details given on page 2.



ABOVE: The Green Knight!

by Night Out – the community touring scheme for Wales, tickets are £4, £3 concessions and are available by calling (01656) 840439.

Brave Sir Gawain rides into the Berwyn for a scary knight!

IN a mixture of storytelling, theatre and pantomime, Cat Weatherill tells the tale of 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' at the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel, on December 18 at 2pm.

Young Sir Gawain, a knight of the Round Table, accepts a challenge from the fearsome Green Knight and rides north on a terrible quest. Cold, alone and far from home, with the snow falling like feathers around him, he suddenly sees a mysterious castle where his adventures begin.

Suitable for children aged eight and over, the show features music, song and a real Green Knight – six foot tall.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development and supported

Local MPs sing the praises of Remploy on Bridgend visit



ABOVE: Deborah Thomas, Madeleine Moon and Huw Irranca-Davies.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon toured the Remploy factory in Bridgend with Deborah

Thomas, social enterprise manager and Huw Irranca-Davies MP, on International Day of Disabled People.

Afterwards, Mrs Moon said: "It is very encouraging to see Remploy creating interesting and exciting environmentally aware businesses in this economic climate."

Ms Thomas has started Cutting Edge Services, a business which aims to divert bulky waste from landfill such as mattresses, bed bases and furniture.

"A deconstruction process is on site and the materials are re-used into second life

products such as pet beds, equine products and rugby rucking pads, all with a zero carbon footprint."

"Bridgend Remploy will soon be selling these products on eBay. If you have a mattress you want to recycle, you can ring Remploy on 01656 653982 and arrange to deliver."

Huw Irranca-Davies, MP said: "The Bridgend factory has a modern, clean environment and Remploy is a UK leader in providing meaningful employment opportunities for disabled people."

"Under the leadership of Ms Thomas, a number of independent social enterprise businesses are being created to ensure the future of the workforce."

WAITROSE ON SHOW!



(Left to right): Rob Cadwell from Waitrose; Heather Brock; Catrin Hall, a store assistant from the Pontprennau store; and Jeff Bird. (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK) Turn to page 25 for report.

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Low-budget sci-fi movie proves a compelling and thrilling watch

It appears that alien invasions have become the latest cinematic craze.

While we've already experienced them crash landing in Los Angeles in *Skyline* (though, in fairness, I personally wish we hadn't), and will experience them invading the same city in next year's *World Invasion: Battle LA*, the latest film to take on the subjects of extra terrestrial annihilation is entitled, simply, *Monsters*.

Set six years after an alien invasion, it tells the story of Andrew (Scoot McNairy), a photo journalist who is

tasked with escorting his boss's daughter Samantha (Whitney Able) through an infected zone in Mexico to the United States border – but their journey is anything but easy, as they must make their way past the aliens...

The background story to *Monsters* is equally as compelling as the one presented onscreen. Having cut his teeth in documentary, visual effects artist Gareth Edwards fancied taking a shot at a feature film.

Picking a cast of two, and shooting on foot throughout America, Costa Rica and Belize, he made the film, almost independent in spirit and

nature, of two people connecting against a backdrop of aliens.

The result is a piece of work that puts many big-budget films to shame, eschewing OTT effects and story for something far more subtle and compelling – and as a result, is hugely watchable.

It is very easy to offer hollow praise to Edwards – after all, since *The Blair Witch Project*'s success, the number of films made on low-budgets, only to achieve huge financial success has increased hugely, each film being the 'little film that could'.

While *Monsters* cer-

tainly belongs in that category, it is the style and execution that sets it apart from your *Paranormal Activity* and the like, the film making a mockery of its minuscule budget, and that is down to Edwards' abilities as both writer and director.

Visually, the film is gorgeous to look at, a travelogue of beauty in destruction, with Edwards shooting among sites that had been affected by earthquakes and hurricane, and capturing the fragility among the carnage.

While the locations add a deep-seated realism to the story, it's the special effects that are

most impressive, Edwards adding in the visual effects himself, all produced using off-the-shelf software that anyone can buy.

He cleverly disguises the limitations of the effects work by keeping the creatures in the shadows, maintaining the drama and tension.

What is on screen is easily the equal of what you might see in a summer blockbuster and Edwards should be hugely proud of what he has achieved.

Using hand-held cameras, the feel is one of immediacy, placing you deep into the lives of the two protagonists and the situation they find themselves in, with an emphasis on letting things develop rather than forcing them.

The same can be said about the script, though as the film was largely improvised, it's less about the dialogue and more about the way Edwards paces the story.

Kicking off with a creature attack shot completely in night vision, Edwards rewinds the story to the beginning, learning about the characters of Andrew and Samantha and giving them a level of depth without forcing their backstory in.

Similarly, Edwards winds in a large amount of pertinent detail about the creatures and their nature almost sublimi-

nally, restricting the exposition to road signs and news clips, yet with it all hitting home.

The story is paced well, the tension and drama growing as the characters get deeper into their situation.

Given the low-key nature of the film's production, Edwards had to cast actors who were able to carry both the story and the needs of the characters, and he finds two strong turns in Scoot McNairy and Whitney Able.

If your first reaction is 'who' then don't worry, you're not alone – the pair have only minor credits to their name, although McNairy did star in the little-seen-but-actually-very-good *In Search of a Midnight Kiss*.

However, it is to their advantage that their faces are only recognisable to their family, as they help ramp up the realism of the film. Had it been Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz walking around avoiding creatures, the suspension of disbelief wouldn't have been there; as it is, with McNairy and Able, they could be any two people in the world, thrown together by events.

Their performances ooze naturalism, with no moment feeling acted out or forced, and the (in real life married) pair play on their chemistry.

Arguably, it is a love story set against the backdrop of trying to escape from alien creatures, but the two performances are more than just reactionary, the pair bringing real character to the story, and helping hold the film up with real skill.

While it's easy to laud films such as *Avatar* for breaking technological ground, it's films such as *Monsters* that are perhaps the real ground-breakers; after all, can a film student hope to aspire to make an *Avatar*?

Not unless a wealthy patron decides to make a dream come true, but a *Monsters* is far more realistic process, and shows that with skill you can make a film without breaking the bank to do so.

Monsters is a massively impressive piece of work, regardless of budget, and that is the one thing that will hit home – Gareth Edwards takes a genre piece and with skill and dedication makes a film that takes it genre origins and

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

sends it somewhere else entirely – and makes it a truly arresting piece of work.

VERDICT – A subtle and smart film, *Monsters* is as much about two individuals connecting and trying to save themselves as it is about alien creatures.

What is so impressive is director Gareth Edwards' ambition and ability, making so much from so little without it straining to look good.

With wonderful turns from Scoot McNairy and Whitney Able, the end result is one of the most compelling films of the year.

Essential viewing.

Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee

A Christmas Service

will be held at
Coychurch Crematorium
Thursday 16th December 2010
at 7.00pm

Led by
Rev. Stephen C Pare
Aberkenfig, Tondy and Bettws
Father William Isaac
St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Bridgend

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No correspondence will be entered into. Entrants must be over 18 years of age.
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Name	Answer
Address
Postcode	Tel. No.
E-Mail

Normal competition rules apply. Judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Closing date **Tuesday 21st December**. Winner to be announced in the 'What's on' pages of the Gem, 23rd December edition.

Brian Conley is to star in New Theatre's Cinderella

COMEDIAN, actor, singer and television chat show host Brian Conley has been announced as the star of Cardiff's biggest and most spectacular pantomime, *Cinderella*, which opens at the New Theatre on Saturday, December 11.

Brian, who stars as Buttons in the pantomime, has hosted numerous television

shows including *Let Me Entertain You*, *Dirty Rotten Cheater* and the hugely successful *The Brian Conley Show* and *Brian Conley: Alive and Dangerous*.

He has guest-hosted *The Paul O'Grady Show* on a number of occasions and has also appeared on several *Royal Variety Performances* as well as *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*, *Loose Women* and recently on *The 5 O'Clock Show* and *The Michael Ball Show*.

On stage Brian has starred in the West End

and in touring productions of *Hairspray* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. He has also portrayed Jolson in the Olivier award-winning hit musical of the same name in London. Brian is currently touring the UK with his latest stage show, *The Best of Brian Conley*.

Joining him on stage in *Cinderella* will be the outstanding ventriloquist Dawson Chance as The Baron, along with his puppet friend, Willy; Amy Pemberton as Cinderella and Brian Godfrey and Darren Southworth as The Ugly

Sisters. Jonathan Kiley, executive producer of the show, said: "We are delighted that Brian, one of the country's finest entertainers and most sought-after pantomime stars, will lead the cast of this superb production of *Cinderella*, the most popular pantomime title of them all."

"As well as beautiful sets, stunning and outrageous costumes, *Cinderella* has that very special transformation when Cinders is magically transported to the Ball, and this unmissable production features a special animatronic flying Pegasus, to help the Fairy Godmother with her task!" added Jonathan.

Cinderella is produced by Qdos Entertainment, the world's largest pantomime producer, and carries the New Theatre hallmark of value-for-money and quality entertainment for all ages.

The panto runs at the New Theatre, Cardiff from Saturday, December 11 to Sunday, January 23, 2011. Tickets, with concessions and generous group discounts at selected performances, can be booked on 02920 878889 or online at www.newtheatreccardiff.co.uk.

RNLI carols

PORHCRAWL branch of the RNLI are holding their carol service at All Saints Church on Wednesday, December 15, at 7pm. Also performing are Porthcawl Male Voice Choir and West Park Junior School Choir.

Art show donations to cancer charity

THE Silures Art Group has been holding an art fair at The Barn on West Farm, Southerndown, where Ms Jill James, proprietor, said: "My vision for West Farm is of a venue which supports the arts and encourages tourism into the area."

"We already hold film nights in our 40 seat cinema and will be forming a film club in the new year. We have loved having this successful art and craft exhibition at the Barn and look forward to many more."

The exhibition ends on December 12. The artists are donating all commission from the paintings, prints, textile work and cards to the Macmillan Cancer Care, plus money from a raffle and refreshments.

SAT 11 DEC 2010 - SUN 23 JAN 2011

"Oh Yes!" It's Panto Time

BRIAN CONLEY

as Buttons

Cinderella

THE MOST MAGICAL PANTO OF THEM ALL!

DAWSON CHANCE & WILLY

AMY PEMBERTON

BRIAN GODFREY & DARREN SOUTHWORTH

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NEW THEATRE

BillBoard Ensemble proudly presents

"The Sleeping Beauty"

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Barry Memorial Hall Theatre

Wed. 15th, Thurs. 16th & Fri. 17th at 7:30 pm

Sat. 18th & Sun. 19th December at 2:30pm

Tickets are £9 & £8 available from

'Copy-It', Holton Road, Barry &

'A & A Dancewear', Park Crescent, Barry

Tickets are also available on the door

For information ring Barry 400055

Barry Celebrates Christmas 2010

"Let it Snow"

Central Park, Barry, Saturday 11 December, 10am to 4pm

For one day only Central Park will become a festive arena complete with snow, snowmen, an igloo, ice sculpting, Live Christmas Music provided by RAF St Athan band & All that Jazz, Play Development's "Workshops in Wonderland" and street entertainers. Santa will also be at the park with his reindeer and sleigh from 10am to 3pm.

For more information please call 01446 704737 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/events

Vale of Glamorgan

RD MORGAN

Second heating 'malfunction' at Princess of Wales Hospital

FURTHER damage has been done to part of the Princess of Wales Hospital by burst pipes.

Last week, The GEM reported that the day surgery unit had been affected by a leak in the central heating system, which a hospital spokesman said was caused by a malfunction in the equipment designed to increase temperatures. If outside temperatures plunge below zero.

Now, it appears that a second malfunction occurred in a different piece of equipment – this time at the children's clinic, which is a stand-alone building outside the main hospital block.

The spokeswoman denied that an energy manager had ordered the heating switched off over the weekend in parts of the hospital not in use.

She said: "The heating was not switched off anywhere in the Princess of Wales Hospital, including the children's clinic.

Regrettably, over the weekend, we had two incidents of heating equipment malfunctioning.

"This is very unfortunate and staff are working very hard to make sure the effect on patients is kept to a minimum.

"Maintenance staff are also working hard to repair the damage and replace the malfunctioning equipment."

She added that it was too early to tell what the cost of the damage will be.

50mph viaduct speed limit on A48

THE 50mph speed limit on the A48 at Cowbridge viaduct is back again this year – for the winter.

A number of Vale residents had written to The GEM querying the new restriction, which came into effect before the recent spell of freezing temperatures.

However, a Vale Council spokeswoman confirmed to The GEM

that the limit would apply for the winter months, and that it could be reduced to 40mph if conditions warrant it.

The speed limit was introduced during the freezing spell last winter.

The spokeswoman said: "Problems were experienced on the viaduct section of the A48 at Cowbridge last winter, with ice forming on the bridge deck. "Because of this a

decision has been taken to reduce the speed limit along this section of the A48 to 50mph during the winter, with a further reduction to

40mph should conditions deteriorate further, to ensure a safe and reliable journey for motorists."

'Plant' links trees and the children to Wales' future

SINCE January 2008, the Welsh Assembly Government has planted a native tree for every child born or adopted in Wales.

"The project is called Plant! and National Tree Week, which ran from November 25 to December 5, was marked by the issue of the 100,000th certificate.

The project aims to build a stronger connection between people and their environment and to improve native habitats, allowing parents to play their part in nurturing a healthy planet in which their child and their tree is growing.

"Each child receives a certificate stating where their tree will be planted."

The original idea for the scheme came from a Cardiff schoolgirl, Natalie Vaughan (11), who wrote to her Assembly Member, Sue Essex, suggesting that planting a tree for every child born or adopted would be a good way to make young people think about their environment and the role they have in preserving it.

One parent who appreciated the planting of a tree for their child is Wenna Gregory of Cardiff, who teaches biology at Bryntirion School in Bridgend.

Her son, Mostyn, was born 18 months ago. Her school is in the process of planting its own orchard, while the family planted an apple tree in their own garden when Mostyn was born.

"I was so surprised and pleased to hear that a tree had been planted on behalf of my son. Thank you very much to the Welsh Assembly for such a wonderful and forward-looking scheme.

"I feel very proud to be part of a country that values its natural heritage in this way," she added.

'Mrs Claus' sends in the RAF Polar Express – with some Christmas cheer!

RAF Personnel, Flight Lieutenant Bryony Robinson, Chief Technician Rob Ringer and Corporal Gareth Leonard, from No 4 School of Technical Training (No 4 SoFTT), MoD St Athan, assisted members of the South East Wales Jobcentres by acting as a 'Polar Express' in a bid to get Christmas presents to special children.

Mrs Claus, aka Mrs Anne Cheshire, customer service manager, Jobcentre Plus, co-ordinated personnel in Barry and beyond to rise to the challenge of charity fundraising at the offices and, with the help of colleagues throughout the south-east Wales region, sponsored gifts for more than 400 children through the Barnardos

children's appeal. The logistics of collecting all the gifts was a tricky one. However, with the help of their friends at St Athan, the RAF have once again come up trumps with their 'Polar Express'.

A four-ton truck, it manned by Bryony, Rob and Gareth, who used their training schedules to ensure that the presents were collected and delivered in time for that special onward journey.

Mrs Cheshire said: "Christmas is a time for children and following last year's response the staff across south-east Wales wanted to be a part of making someone else's Christmas 'special'.

"We were delighted that, once again, the RAF were able to utilise their training time to help collect the gifts and transport them to



The RAF collecting gifts from Mrs Anne Cheshire and staff at Jobcentre Plus, Barry.

the main collection depot on our behalf."

Presents from the Jobcentres at Abergavenny, Newport, Gabaifa, Caradog House, Cardiff, Charles Street, Cardiff, Alexander House, Canton and Barry were collected and taken to the main distribution depot in Cardiff for onward delivery to the homes of youngsters ready for Christmas

Day. Chief Technician Rob Ringer concluded: "It is heart-warming to know that there are charities, such as Barnardos, who are able to co-ordinate the giving of gifts to children who find themselves in difficult circumstances. By just a few small

changes to the training schedule we have been able to assist in this worthwhile and much-needed project. With the help of Barnardos and

the generous support of the Job Centres, we hope all the children will have the best possible Christmas they can."

JB

NEWS FROM 2nd LLANTWIT MAJOR BOYS BRIGADE

A TEAM of four boys took part in the first round of the BB National Masterteam competition at Gloucester and came joint first.

Well done to Sean Chapman, Sam Pickford, DJ Jones and Tal Brown!

The competition consisted of 10 rounds, each of 10 questions, including Samson, Flags of the Commonwealth, and General Sport.

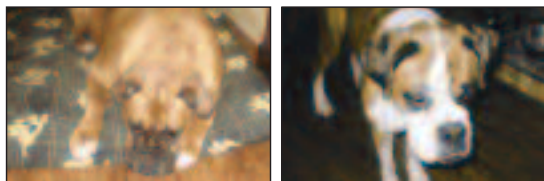
They now go through to the next round which takes place in January at West Bromwich.

A team of three boys recently took on the 2nd Bath Boys' Brigade Company in the BB National Chess competition and won.

Congratulations to Sean Chapman, Alex Harris and Tal Brown. The team will be away in the next round to Bovey Tracey.

As with the Masterteam Competition, the Llantwit boys are the only Welsh team to enter national competitions.

The younger boys have also been busy. A team of four junior boys took part in the battalion board games competition and came second. Congratulations to Dylan Johnston, Jake Davey, Mason Richardson and Samuel Stewart.

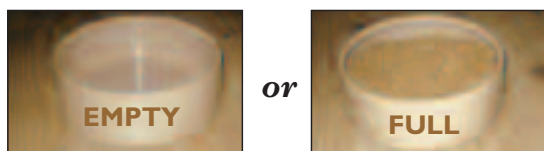


URGENT GEM URGENT Winter Pet Food Appeal

More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Most pet owners treat their pets as part of the family and will even be including them in the family Christmas presents!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.



Thank-you, from all the sheltered animals!

ENILLWCH
DIP IT LAFOD!
WIN A TRIP TO LAPLAND

Anfonwch lythyr gan Siôn corn

Send a Letter from Santa

Archebwch lythyr a helpwch i gadw plant yn hapus ac yn ddiogel drwy gydol y flwyddyn.

Order a letter today and make Christmas extra special for a child you know.

£5 suggested donation

nspcc.org.uk/letter-from-santa

ChildLine
0800 1111

NSPCC
Dim rwy a grefndod i blant. DIM.
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Rhoose Point sports field – local councillors reply

WE write in response to the letter from Andrew Bailey (The GEM, December 2, headed – 'Will Rhoose sports field ever arrive?')

Mr Bailey indicates that the council is in receipt of £55,000 received from Cofon as a result of the S106 Legal Agreement towards the costs of providing changing rooms. He is correct.

The sports field was due to be provided by Cofon – that is, before the company went into administration.

Prior to this, the council was in active negotiation with Cofon to provide the sports field, but these negotiations were overtaken by events.

Since Cofon's demise, the council has been working tirelessly

to seek the transfer of all the land assets at Rhoose Point (including the land designated for a sports field) from the administrators into the ownership of the council. This will then allow the council to seek adoption of the drainage system and the high-ways and manage the open space for current and future residents.

The demise of Cofon is hugely regrettable and disappointing. However, we can assure the residents that we are working hard to ensure the land previously in their control is brought under the guardianship of this council (as initially intended by the S106 agreement).

The cabinet considered a report on July 21, which provided an update on land transfers, highway and drainage matters and resolved that negotiations continue with the administrators and that funds

from the planning agreements be used for matters related to the development at Rhoose Point.

The use of that money has not yet been determined, but I must make it clear that the council is not, and never has been, in receipt of any money to deliver a sports field and the £55,000 was always a contribution towards the cost of changing rooms.

As for Mr Bailey's reference to the land to the north of Rhoose Point, the applications that are currently before the council have been submitted by private developers. They are not 'our plans'. They are proposals submitted to the council for consideration and that consideration is under way. **Coun Gordon Kemp (Leader of the council) and Coun Jeffrey James (Cabinet member for planning and transportation)**

Scrutiny committee can reach the parts that local ward members cannot!

THE ongoing problems with the adoption of Rhoose Point are a cause for concern for all residents, and I for one welcome the fact that the issue was referred to the council's scrutiny committee on our behalf.

The scrutiny committee exists to protect all of the Vale's residents and tax-payers, and any adoption process that sees the council taking on new liabilities should be of concern to all councillors, not only the ones for the ward involved.

If there are issues of concern still surrounding Rhoose Point, it is fairly clear that our own ward councillors would not have had them called-in for scrutiny for several reasons.

Firstly, they are not on the scrutiny committee and cannot influence its decisions. Secondly, as Coun James is currently chair of planning, and I believe Coun Kemp was chair of planning when Rhoose Point was developed, they would be calling their own behaviour into question (and with the best will in the world, no-one is likely to do that). Thirdly, as they have been closely involved in the process as cabinet members, they have a clear conflict of interests.

As there are obviously a number of groups of residents now taking an active interest in the adoption of Rhoose Point, but working in isolation from one another, I propose that a residents' meeting is held to brief local people on the remaining issues.

Additionally, as Coun James finds himself caught between representing the interests of his constituents in Rhoose and conducting his duties as chair of planning, I believe the only right course of action for him to take now would be to resign as chair of planning and take up the issues of local people, as he is elected to do.

I also live in Rhoose Point, and am concerned at the lack of progress in adopting the development. However, I would prefer to know that the scrutiny committee had had the chance to look over the issues and has agreed to the plan of action currently being undertaken on our behalf.

Eluned Parrott (Chair, Vale of Glamorgan Liberal Democrats)

Path right of way

FURTHER to my recent letter concerning the closure of the path to Barry Island from Ffordd y Millennium, I have done some research and believe it to be an established right of way, for the following reason:

The public at large have been using the route openly and unopposed for many years.

The previous owners of the land (ABP) dedicated the route as a right of way by laying a path, fencing it and providing pedestrian access.

Rights of way can only be extinguished by process of law. **Ronald Peck, Barry**

Locals look at the fine detail of Waitrose plan

COWBRIDGE residents were out in force last week, to take a close look at plans for a Waitrose foodstore in Cowbridge.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, an exhibition was held at the old Hurrans Garden Centre, and a steady stream of locals came along to examine the plans.

Jeff Bird and Heather Brock, who as RS Bird Ltd will build the entire development on their town centre site, had arranged for representatives of Waitrose, architects Kennedy James Griffiths, and consultants Alder King, to be there to answer questions.

Jeff Bird told The GEM that he was "delighted" with the number of people who had come to the exhibition, saying that it

by PHILIP IRWIN

was an important part of the consultation exercise.

Many were writing their comment forms there and then, while some took them home to fill in at their leisure.

All the exhibition team maintained that the response had been overwhelmingly positive.

Charles Russell Smith, of Alder King, said: "I think there is a strong sense among locals that Cowbridge missed out 10 years ago, when a Waitrose development was proposed."

"A number of people have said that it would have been a great benefit to Cowbridge."

The architect for the scheme is a former Cowbridge Comprehensive student, Simon

Kennedy, who now lives in Pendoylan with his wife and young family.

He told The GEM that it had been exciting to work on an important scheme so close to home, and that knowing the area and the site well had been a great help.

Mr Russell Smith said there had been some discussion around the footpath which joins Cowbridge High Street next to Martins newsagents, and which then winds towards the Twt Park.

Under the new scheme, the footpath will skirt the Waitrose car park.

However, Mr Russell Smith said that it would be improved, particularly at the High Street end, where it would be made suitable for the disabled by installing a ramp, instead of the existing steps.



Win stamps – and a £20 gift card with The GEM and Royal Mail.. and write to us for free if you win!

ROYAL MAIL, Post Office and Parcellforce Worldwide workers across Wales are gearing up to handle millions more extra cards and presents in the run-up to Christmas 2010.

Royal Mail is also bringing some festive cheer to readers by offering special Wallace and Gromit festive stamp presentation packs, featuring an advent calendar, in a fun festive competition.

As an extra bonus this year, readers also have the opportunity to win £20 worth of Post Office vouchers to spend on last-minute Christmas presents, or early New Year bargains.

Details, together with information about the many products and services at branches, available from all Post Offices and online at www.postoffice.co.uk

Nationally, a bumper mailbag of around two billion cards and parcels is expected between now and Christmas across the UK.

In Wales, Royal Mail will handle more than 50 million cards and parcels a week as Christmas fast approaches.

Recommended UK last posting dates: Second class – Saturday, December 18; First Class – Tuesday, December 21; Special delivery – Thursday, December 23.

To enter our super festive competition, simply answer this simple question:

Who is featured on the festive stamps?
A Wallace and Gromit; B Chas and Dave; C Wagner and Simon Cowell?

The first four entries drawn will win a £20 gift card and a presentation pack of stamps; the next 16 will receive the presentation pack of stamps.

Entries, on a postcard marked 'Festive Stamps',

to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL no later than Friday, December 17.

No correspondence will be entered into and judge's decision is final – good luck!



Christmas at Castleland

CHRISTMAS events for the Drop In Centre, Thompson Street Estate, Barry, are being held at the Castleland Community Centre.

There will be a 'Christmas Carol Singing Night' on Wednesday, December 15, from 7pm – 9pm; soup, grotto presents and mulled wine – all free!

Two days later, on December 17 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm, it is the 'Christmas Disco Party Friday'; refreshments, costumes optional (a prize for best one) children free, adults £1.

For more details on both events, please call 01446 403549.

Planning law

REFER to the recent flow of correspondence concerning some current planning applications.

Although local planning authorities and committees are democratically elected, they cannot decide applications on the basis of strength of public opinion – they must decide according to planning law. **William Milne**

GEM reader WJD Rees of Barry penned this poem on Remembrance

Poem for a veteran

*On yet another November's day parade
He thinks of sacrifices made.
By young men that once were his peers.
And those robbed of oh so many years.*

*Among those spared, Why me? He pondered.
From battlefields where he had wandered,
He'd survived the enemy's shot and shell
In a landscape, best described as Hell.*

*He had rallied to his country's call,
With friends who knew that they may fall.
But still they signed up for the shilling.
Brave young hearts so proud and willing.*

*His comrades in this shrinking band,
He now counts upon a single hand.
Fewer faces in the line appear
With each and every passing year.*

*The sound echoed from the last post.
The notes released his private ghosts
Of a time when he too, felled the foe,
In a land where angels didn't go.*

*The drizzle running o'er his face,
Swiftly does two tears displace.
Softly down his cheeks tears flow,
One for friend and one for foe.*

*If you're lucky, you may hear his story.
Though not of bravery nor of glory.
But of the tragedy of young lives taken
In a world that evil war had shaken.*

The Commissioner for Wales praises 'great young people'

GIBBONSDOWN and **Court Youth Forum invited Keith Towler (Children's Commissioner for Wales) to Gibbonsdown on December 1.**

Two of the Youth Forum members originally met him at Jane Hutt's spring breakfast earlier this year and informed him about the group – asking if he could attend one of their meetings.

He agreed and spent an hour chatting with the children, who had put together a presentation

about the aims of the Youth Forum – highlighting past, current and future projects.

The meeting was very relaxed and forum members were able to discuss with the Commissioner how they felt about living in their community, school life and projects they were looking forward to.

It was also an opportunity for the children to ask the Commissioner key questions about the importance of his role and how his work linked into the Youth Forum having a voice in their community.

Keith Towler said: "I really enjoyed meeting with the Youth Forum – they are a great bunch of young people and they are making a huge difference in their community."

The Youth Forum is for young people aged between 11-18 living in the Gibbonsdown and Court wards of Barry.

Contact Communities First on 01446 732406 for further details.

Sharon Topazio
(Communities First Coordinator)



Front row: Michelle Sullivan and Ellie. Middle row: Delyth Harries, Lloyd, Sophie and Emily.



Front row: Lloyd, Emily and Sophie. Back row: Marcus, YF chair Jess and Ellie.

1st Rhoose Brownies' group shines at the Disability Awards

THE 17th annual 'Understanding Disability' awards for promoting positive attitudes towards people with a learning disability were held recently at the Future Inn Hotel in Cardiff Bay.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Coun Keith Hyde, together with Coun Colin Osborne, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, presented awards celebrating the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in the community.

Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales spoke about his role, representing children and young people and speaking out for their rights.

Mr Towler explained: "The Children's Commissioner wants to break down barriers and bring children and young people together."

The Children's Award was presented to the 1st Rhoose Brownies of Rhoose.

The group consists of 18 girls between the ages of seven and 10 years old from various schools in the Vale, who have gone a long way to accepting and including nine-year-old Olivia into their pack.

Olivia has physical and learning difficulties due to premature birth and other complications, but is included in all activities, assisted by her fellow Brownies in such a way so as not to make her stand out, and without making extra work for the leaders.

Iwan Thomas and class 5 of Y Bont Faen Primary School, and the children of Palmerston Primary were highly commended in the children's category.

Iwan has both physical and learning disabilities and came to Y Bont Faen Primary as a young child. The majority of the children have known Iwan since he started school, and he has been accepted as a classmate and not treated any differently.

Palmerston Primary has accepted and included children with various disabilities. All children play together during play times and in after school sports clubs.

Able-bodied children have made slight changes to game rules to make them more accessible to disabled children. For example, game rules have been simplified, or the size of the games pitch has been changed, according to a child's range of movement.



ABOVE: Olivia receiving her award



ABOVE: Iwan Thomas of Y Bont Faen with his award.



Palmerston Primary pupils receive their award.

U3A's 'turkey and tinsel' trip

ON November 22, a party of 12 members of the Barry and Vale U3A left on a 'turkey and tinsel' trip to Falmouth, staying at the Falmouth Beach Resort Hotel.

Apart from a few showers, they had a bright and sunny stay, visiting both Plymouth and Truro.

During the evenings, there was entertainment that included dancing, carols and quizzes.

The food was excellent and included traditional Christmas fare.

On November 26, they departed from Falmouth and on the return journey experienced sunshine and

snow. They made a stop in Exeter, where they had the opportunity to look around and visit the cathedral. Eleven hours later, they reached home after a very enjoyable break. RP



ABOVE: Olivia Berkley-Smith and 1st Rhoose Brownies.

MEMORIES OF BRIDGEND'S GREAT FLOOD

NEWS of an exhibition in Bridgend to mark the 50th anniversary of the great flood of Bridgend in December 1960 brought back a lot of memories for GEM reporter Jayne Isaac.

Jayne was a 10-year-old child living with her parents Danny and Vi Williams in Sunnyside Road when the flood struck.

Large areas of the town were affected and dozens of houses, including theirs, were flooded. Here Jayne recalls the events of those momentous few days half a century ago.

IT HAD rained incessantly for days. The River Ogmore, which flowed past the bottom of the street, was swollen with brown, swirling water coming down from the three valleys to the north of the town.

We folk of the river bank, just like Ratty and his friends in *Wind in the Willows*, knew the river in its many moods.

We saw it turn from a lazy shallow stream in summer to a menacing torrent in winter. No peasant on the banks of the Ganges watched the river as closely as the residents of Sunnyside.

Fear of flooding was a feature of my childhood but those fears were never realised until that December weekend.

Knots of worried householders gathered on the old bridge on that fateful Saturday as river levels slowly rose. I remember crossing the Embassy bridge, which was just upstream, and feeling that I could have touched the water through the slits in the side panels – so high was the water.

All that evening, the men of the street kept a vigil and we knew that the crunch would come when the floodwaters rushing down the river hit the high tide coming up the estuary from Ogmore.

My mother was about to give birth at any minute and a bedroom had been created in our front room for her and my father.

All the street knew about the impending arrival and that night, neighbours came in and out to see if my mother was okay.

When the water finally started to rise up the street, neighbours piled in to carry all the furniture from the front room back upstairs.

The house filled with floodwater – up to several feet in depth. The flooding was much worse in low-lying

streets like Lewis Avenue and Tynon Road, where the floodwaters reached almost to ceiling height.

Anyhow, we all retreated upstairs and it was at this point that my mother went into labour.

I remember seeing Dr Margaret Williams (wife of Dr Peter and the mother of 1970s rugby legend IPR) wading through the house in her wellies.

She pleaded with my mother to go into hospital to give birth. She argued that the house was full of germs as we had feet of stinking river water swirling around downstairs.

But my mother would not be budged and the midwife, Sister Jean Parsons, then arrived with her black bag to take charge.

At this point, I was whisked away by my father to take a walk to inspect the town, which was still largely underwater.

By the time we returned, my brother Richard had been born and was lying in his basket. Childbirth looked like a pretty effortless affair as far as I was concerned at that age!

The safe arrival of the baby was celebrated by residents in the street and beyond. My father was a committee member of Bridgend RFC – which was also underwater – and for many years after, Richard was nicknamed 'Noah' because he came with the flood!

Gradually, the waters subsided with the fire brigade pumping out the water from our homes. I remember that the council came and took away our carpets (no fitted carpets in those days, just carpet squares) which they somehow or other dried for us.

We were also given the choice of having either a new carpet square or coconut matting for the whole of the ground floor, paid for by the council. My mother chose a new carpet square.

Bridgend was very different in those days. At the bottom of Sunnyside Road was a narrow lane and the river bank were lined with trees right along to Newbridge Fields.

The Corona pop stores opened out onto this lane and there was also Derek's bakery – both swept away later, as was my house and others at the bottom of Sunnyside, by the new inner by-pass.

In later years, I interviewed people about their memories of the flood.

Sgt John Anderson told me how he and a couple of officers had launched Dr Milne's rowing boat from the top of the Rhiw through the floodwater to try and rescue the animals trapped in the slaugh-



ABOVE:
Dunraven Place where the flood water was deepest..

BELOW:
A Mini, stranded in Queen Street.



terhouse, which was located more or less where the Rhiw car park is now.

The abattoir had been flooded and some animals had already drowned.

They took a huge risk, as they could have easily been swept over the side into the raging torrent that was the river, but they managed to get into the slaughterhouse and release the animals who swam to safety up the Rhiw.

Frank and Margaret Bertorelli, who had the Windsor chip shop, also swam from the Rhiw – and they were passed by some of the cows going the other way.

Frank recalled seeing Mrs Rose Granville, who owned a dress shop in Queen Street, sailing along in a boat looking very regal. He said that she reminded him of Nefertiti of the Nile.

Another businesswoman who was affected was Elsie Butler who ran the ironmonger's in Queen Street and later become a



ABOVE:
Adare Street as the waters start to subside.

Bridgend UDC member and chairman of the council.

There were hundreds of stories about the flood which have been told and retold over the years by the residents

of all the affected streets.

Sunnyside had its fair share but the arrival of the baby Noah (who has just celebrated his 50th birthday) was one of the favourites!



ABOVE: *Dunraven Place under water, with the Wyndham Hotel on the right.*

BELOW:
As remembered by Jayne Isaac, the Embassy Bridge is barely clear of the rising waters.



All photographs are taken from 'Central Bridgend Around Elder Street' – compiled by Natalie Murphy, and published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, of Stroud, Gloucestershire.

BELOW:
The Fire Brigade pumping flood water from Dunraven Place.



ST ATHAN SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL SERVICE PEOPLE



THE St Athan Senior Citizens Christmas party was held on Friday, December 3.

Those in attendance included the chairman of St Athan Community Council, Mr Steven Haines, St Athan Voluntary Band, led by Alan Bourne, and Wing Commander Lyndon Jones from the RAF No 4 School of Technical Training, together with helpers.

As usual, Christmas cakes were provided by the RAF and Ruth Leisk, Steven Haines and Commander Lyndon Jones cut the cakes.

The party was well attended and they all enjoyed the Christmas festivities, as well as each receiving a Christmas present, which was provided by the St Athan Community Council.

CR



A packed hall was entertained by the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band led by Alan Bourne.



CHRIS FRANKS AM

Plaid Cymru Assembly Member

Representing Cardiff, The Vale and Rhondda Cynon Taf

ADVICE SURGERY

WHEN: Thursday 16th December

WHERE: Old Library, rear of Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys

TIME: 10.00am — 11.00am



Maesteg Town Hall to get new boilers

WORK is under-way on installing new boilers at Maesteg Town Hall. The 130-year-old building has been without adequate heating since the summer when the two existing boilers broke down and it was impossible to obtain spare parts to repair them.

A letter was sent to Maesteg Town Council seeking support towards paying the £26,000 cost of replacement. BCBC, which owns the hall, is putting up £10,000 and the hall itself has £6,000 leaving a £10,000 shortfall.

Town councillors heard that the management committee had attempted to get grant funding from other sources but the money would not be available quickly enough to prevent the building from suffering damage during the current cold weather.

There have also been complaints from members of the public attending events in the hall about the low temperatures.

Without heat, the

future of the building would be put in jeopardy and its viability undermined.

The management committee is also responsible for the care of a series of paintings by the Maesteg born artist Christopher Williams and the low temperatures could have an adverse impact on them.

Temporary electric blowers have been leased, but they have proved to be inadequate owing to the size of the hall.

During discussions, town councillors pledged support for what is an iconic building in the heart of the town which is also the cultural hub of the valley.

It was agreed to donate £10,000 towards the cost of replacing the boilers. However, the town council has asked its delegates on the management committee to express concern about why the boilers were not replaced sooner, which would have alleviated the problems of leaving the hall without heating during the winter.

SIMON SAYS...

'Disability does not mean an end to your life'

SIMON GREEN from the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People joined a celebration of the International Day of Disabled People in the Senedd, where he met regional Plaid AM Chris Franks.

Simon said: "As a disabled person and chairman of the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, I think it is vital that we recognise Disability History month and the roles and contributions that disabled people have made over many years."

"Having a disability does not mean an end to your life; whatever the impairment, we should be able to live a good and fulfilled life and be allowed to play a role in society."

"But sadly, many people don't give disabled people the chance to prove what they can do and some don't think we can or should be working, socialising and enjoying life alongside

the non-disabled community".

"I would urge every disabled person to do everything they can to make sure they have equality and the chance to achieve their goals and to campaign hard so we can all be treated equal".

"Events like the 'Words for Wales' campaign at the Senedd on International Day of the Disabled are vitally important. It gave people the chance to express feelings via poetry and short stories and was very thought provoking."

Disabled people and campaigners came from across Wales to take part in the celebration.

After speeches and readings from disabled people, Chris Franks was questioned about ensuring better access to polling stations for disabled people.

He has written to the Electoral Commission and the Assembly Commission for assurances on this matter.



ABOVE: Simon Green (on left) with Chris Franks.

Theo's opens - to raise funds for Kenfig parish

THEO'S is the new parish shop in Kenfig Hill which raises money for St Theodore's Church and the parish.

The shop has just moved into the former solicitor's offices next to the Spar which is a central spot in the village.

It opened for business on Monday when customers were treated to mince pies and mulled wine. The building also has a community space which will be the hub for all sorts of parish activities now that the parish hall has been sold.

The parish has just welcomed new vicar, Rev Jonathan Durrie, and members are hoping that the new premises will be an asset to the whole community.

Church warden Margaret Phillips said that the community area will be available for hire by outside organisations and will also be a venue for parish activities.

The shop is run by a committee and staffed by volunteers. The opening hours have now been extended to include Saturday mornings. It will operate 9am-5pm Monday to Friday and 9am-12noon on Saturdays.

The shop has been extensively refurbished after it was bought by the church. Money raised by the sale of the old church hall has been invested into this new property.

The opening was preceded by a highly successful fashion show held at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club when 10 volunteers modelled clothing from the shop, showing the range and quality of the items available.

Mrs Phillips said that the shop has a huge stock of clothing and could have staged several shows. They raised £750 at this event.

The shop also sells the usual variety of charity shop goods including dishes, bric a brac, books, toys and DVDs.

Photographs by GRACE WYLDE



ABOVE: Pete Lane & Son.

Stroke Club's successful day!

On Saturday, November 20, Porthcawl Stroke Club provided free blood pressure checks in Trinity Church, Porthcawl.

The event was a wonderful success, with 153 people being seen by qualified nursing personnel, Porthcawl Stroke Club would like to thank all the people who took part, the nursing personnel and the volunteers.

Preventative measures are vital to enhance the health and well being of the community, and Porthcawl Stroke Club serves the community in a positive way.

We would also like to thank the press for publicising it and Ray Cross who organised it. We truly hope that anyone who had blood pressure

problems went straight to their doctors.

It is essential that people do not ignore blood pressure problems, as you hear so many people saying, Oh, it's only my blood pressure!

Anyone wishing to join the Porthcawl Stroke Club in the New Year, should contact chairman Keith Duggan on (01656) 773376 or Ray Cross on (01656) 782190.

Porthcawl Stroke Club would like to wish all our supporters in the community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Once again, many thanks for your support, it really is appreciated. On behalf of Porthcawl Stroke Club (Mrs Barbara Matthews)



ABOVE: Eileen George and Joan Evans.



LEFT: First customer!

Catholic club is to be sold at Maesteg

THE Catholic Club in Maesteg is being sold - the congregation at Our Lady and St Patrick's Church has been told by parish priest Fr John Meredith.

It is understood that the club will have to vacate the premises by March. It has been a focal point for Catholics in the valley for many years.

It was opened in 1964, using buildings formerly occupied by the Catholic Church and school, which had both moved to new sites off Garn Road.

The club incorporates the parish hall, which is used by organisations like the Union of Catholic Mothers. It is being sold by the Archdiocese of Cardiff to offset some of the £700,000 cost of carrying out repairs to the church.

The parish was shocked two years ago when the wall behind the high altar collapsed and dry rot was discovered, causing extensive renovations to be carried out. The repairs were funded by the church, but parishioners had to agree to sell the club.

The closure of the club will upset many of the older members who have fond memories of the social and cultural activities that have taken place there over the years.



ABOVE: The eye-catching shop front.



ABOVE: A celebratory drink before browsing.

OBITUARY

Robert Humphreys 1930-2010

THE funeral took place last week in St Cattwg's Church, Llanmaes, of Robert Norton Humphreys, known to his many friends in the area as 'Bob'.

Born in Penrhiwceiber in 1930, he developed, as a young man, a love of motor-cycling, which eventually resulted in a serious accident that necessitated a series of operations and a long period of convalescence.

Although Bob recovered, the accident left him with a serious problem, about which he never complained, but which left him with a characteristic limp for the rest of his life.

He went on to enjoy a full career, working at AB Electronics in Abercynon, continuing to live at the family home in Penrhiwceiber.

In the context of his work, he represented the UK on International Standards Committees.

While still living in Penrhiwceiber, he was elected as a county councillor to Mid-Glamorgan council. He was active in Plaid Cymru and spent a number of years as national treasurer of the party, travelling to Aberystwyth for meetings

most weekends.

During that time, he and his mother were regular churchgoers at St Winifred's in that village, where Bob also became a sidesman.

On the death of his mother, and early retirement from AB Electronics, Bob decided to settle in Boverton, Llantwit Major, living the rest of his life in Monmouth Way.

Although always known as Robbie in Penrhiwceiber, his many friends in Llantwit Major re-christened him Bob, the name by which he was known and loved in the community.

For many years, Bob was clerk to the Llanmaes Community Council, a position he filled with great distinction.

The clerk's role is not only to take the minutes, but also to give advice to the council on procedural and legal responsibilities of councillors.

He had the ability to listen carefully to the debate but, if needed, with a smile and cautionary interjection would keep the council along the right lines.

He also introduced the council to the use of computers before which the typewriter still reigned. Bob was an expert in this field who would arrive at a meeting with the latest lap-top and

related gadgets; he helped and advised scores of friends and acquaintances with the latest technology.

(As an illustration of that, it is interesting to note that one of his last e-mails, sent from his hospital bed in Bridgend to his friend, Coun Phil Kirkham, was the first sent on the latest WiFi system he had just acquired!)

Living alone, Bob found it convenient to take lunch most days in the White Lion or one of the other hostilities in and around Llantwit Major.

It was here that Bob could often be found chatting with friends and putting the world to rights.

Following his long association with the village of Llanmaes, it was fitting that his funeral service should have been held there.

A packed church heard young Katy read a moving tribute to her 'Uncle Bob' in the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev Huw Butler, which was followed by cremation at Coychurch.

Bob Humphreys was a good man who will be much missed by his wide circle of family and friends, not least by those from his adoptive home.

by JEFFREY ROBINSON
(Chair, Llanmaes Community Council)

Let the carol singing begin!

OLDCASTLE Primary School pupils invited to perform in the council's customer service centre in the run-up to Christmas. Ffaldau Primary, Archdeacon John Lewis, Tremains Junior, Llangewydd Junior, Tondur Primary and Maes yr Haul will be performing some favourite Christmas carols throughout the next two weeks.



ABOVE: Oldcastle Primary School pupils spread festive cheer in Bridgend County Borough Council's civic offices.

SHOUTing match as Porthcawl branch is thrown out of county

PORHCRAWL SHOUT has been thrown out of Bridgend County SHOUT.

In return, the Porthcawl branch has decided to declare independence from the county body – which is one of a network of county branches set up by the Welsh Assembly Government. SHOUT was set up as a voice for the over-50s, writes Jayne Isaac.

Porthcawl SHOUT has been very active within the town, campaigning for a swimming pool and also challenging the Porthcawl regeneration plans.

Both campaigns have brought them into conflict with Bridgend County Borough Council, which administers the grants to SHOUT made by WAG.

Des Rees, who is chairman of the Porthcawl organisation, reported that Porthcawl had received a letter from the county branch which expelled them. He

said that they would now be totally independent and would be funded by their own members.

"People have pledged to give us the money we need to keep going. We have 78 members but we are also affiliated to Porthcawl Civic Trust which has 400 members, Porthcawl USA which has 500 members, and the chamber of trade. We all work together for the good of the town."

It is understood that there has been growing conflict between Porthcawl and the county organisation over the way Porthcawl has been fighting for developments in the town.

"We recently joined forces with the chamber and civic trust to call in the auditors to look at the way that the land and money is being divided in the regeneration strategy," said Mr Rees.

"We know that that did not go down well with the council. We

have also had a lot of publicity which did not make us popular either."

A meeting is being arranged between Porthcawl SHOUT and Sue Cooper and Coun Lyn Morgan of the Well Being Directorate at the council which provides services for older people.

"We were told by the SHOUT co-ordinator for Wales that Porthcawl was the best branch in the country," added Mr Rees. "I think that some people did not like that."

Mark Davies, who is chairman of Bridgend County SHOUT, confirmed that Porthcawl had been expelled for not following procedures.

When asked for more details, he said he would prepare a statement which he would submit to The GEM. At the time of going to press, it had not been received.

Entrepreneur backs national charity 'As an ex-Serviceman it's important to me that we support Help for Heroes'

by TIM CHAPMAN

'IF you have a passion and a dream, get on with it' – that is the advice of a Vale businessman whose saucy new products support Help for Heroes and have created nine new jobs in less than 12 months.

A year ago, Simon Llewellyn, aged 39, was a one man band based in Barry's innovation quarter, dreaming of getting his hot pepper sauces to market. Now, his product is on the shelves at Asda – with Tesco due to inspect his premises this week with a view to giving him the go-ahead in January.

Earlier this year he rejected the chance of going in front of the BBC's Dragons to pitch for further investment because interest in his products had suddenly taken off.

Simon has just moved into his own production unit at Atlantic Trading estate and has a staff of nine people.

The notion that people can't get businesses off the ground in periods of recession cuts no ice with him.

He said: "If you have a passion and a dream, then my advice is to get on with it."

"If you are determined enough, you will succeed. There is no such word as 'can't'."

"You have to believe in yourself and go after it."

Simon's Hot Diggidy Dog sauces are made with chillies from Malawi, retail for £1.78 a bottle with 5p a unit going to Help for Heroes.

"As an ex-Serviceman myself, it is important to me that we support those who have come back from wars with serious injuries or support those families who have lost loved ones."

Simon once served as an engineer aboard a nuclear submarine. He was medically discharged from the Royal Navy after being assessed as 30 per cent disabled following injuries sustained in the world famous Earls Court field gun competition.

"I competed in 1994, 1995 and 1998, and damaged my ankles, knees, shoulders and spine. Competitors have lost legs, arms and fingers – two were even killed."

He then worked as a project manager in the oil and gas industry, but when he was made redundant from a sea survey company he decided it was his opportunity to turn 'chillies', his culinary passion,



ABOVE: Simon Llewellyn on his new production line at Atlantic Estate – 5p from every bottle he produces goes to Help for Heroes.

into a living.

"When I was in the Navy I used to take chillies with me to spice up steaks and stews."

"I started off by importing sauces from the USA and Africa, before deciding to develop my own products."

Simon insists that his sauces, Hot Limed Pepper and Hot Original Pepper, are designed to complement food with "a tingle" or "a kick" depending on a person's preference.

The family's cute dachshund called Earl is even the public face of the company and appears on each bottle.

So how does Simon see the future? "I am looking for more investment so that we can look at an automatic system, and I would eventually like to see 50 or more people employed."

"It is important to me to remain a part of the Barry economy and, of course, to support Help for Heroes."

Total of 37 per cent of borough's roads are treated – higher than the Welsh average Council insists it has a 'robust policy' on the winter gritting

HIGHWAYS staff have been out gritting and salting the roads throughout the cold snap.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council said that they had treated the strategic highway network repeatedly over the past 12 days and they have also carried out salting of footways and other roads.

Not all pavements are being routinely treated, although problem areas are inspected and assessed.

The council says that it has a robust winter maintenance policy which has identified the strategic network of roads that are salted in advance of road surface temperatures dropping to or below freezing.

Thirty seven per cent of the borough's roads are treated – which is higher than the Welsh average of 35 per cent.

The cold weather so early in the year has led to unprecedented amounts of salt having to be

spread by this time of year with the bulk of the winter still to come.

The council also has 350 grit bins which have been filled for householders to use to treat pavements and roads not on the main salting routes.

There were problems with the Llynfi Road car park in Maesteg on Saturday morning when the top deck had to be closed to cars because it was so icy.

The rest of the car park was also treacherous and there was also a problem with pavements in the town centre which were covered in a film of ice.

When asked specifically about this area, a spokesman said that the car park and pavements throughout the town centre were gritted by hand gangs in the morning but there was no indication to The GEM at what time this took place.

We have received complaints about the state of the town centre at 9.30am when people were

on their way to attend the Christmas fayre in the Town Hall.

It was a very busy day in Maesteg on Saturday, with the blessing of the crib and carols outside the council offices at 10.30am.

There was a Christmas tree festival on all day at St David's Church and at 4.30pm, large crowds gathered for the parade and switching-on of the Christmas lights followed by a firework display.

There was also a Santa grotto in the town hall and a children's disco. Thousands of people would have been in town at some point during the day.

There were problems with lack of gritting in this car park during the bad weather last winter and at that time, the then town mayor, Steve Smith, who is also a borough councillor, raised the question of the council gritting this car park which is council owned.

'HELIOSPHERE' SHOW BRINGS A SPECTACLE TO KING SQUARE ENTHRALLING YOUNGSTERS

THE Dream Machine brought its 'Heliosphere' show to King Square on Saturday, December 4.

Local photographer Phil Ray was on hand to capture the spectacle, colour and entertainment which delighted the youngsters present.

Highlight of the evening was a daring acrobat suspended underneath a helium balloon, spiralling and spinning to the music, and creating the impression of being able to fly!

PHOTOGRAPHS by PHIL RAY

For more pictures, please go to:
www.barrychristmassphere.co.uk



ABOVE:
Back-to-back juggling in King Square.

BELOW:
These youngsters could hardly believe what they were seeing!



Fast forward to a new career at Barry College

BARRY College is launching a new range of courses for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The brand new range of Fast Forward courses will start in January and are 20 weeks, or two terms, long – allowing people to fast forward their prospects and finish the academic year with a new qualification. There will be an open session introducing the courses on Tuesday, January 11.

The new courses form part of the College's approach to tackling the NEET agenda in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and it is the first time the college has approached the issue on this scale.

Barry College Assistant Principal John Hilton explained: "According to Welsh Assembly Government data, 12 per cent of

young people aged 16-18 in Wales are NEET at any one time. Careers Wales, Cardiff and Vale, has around 1,600 young people who are registered NEET alone and that is enough to fill a school."

Fast Forward courses will be offered in art and design, brickwork, carpentry, childcare, engineering with motor vehicle, ESOL and hair and beauty.

For those who are not sure which career path they want to follow, the college will offer a unique new Fast Forward Directions course. This will teach general qualifications in work skills where students can try out a range of subjects such as sport and fitness, criminology, hairdressing, construction and engineering.

All courses will provide opportunities to boost skills in English, maths and ICT as well as gaining skills and qualifications to boost employability.

"The courses are an enhanced programme with pastoral support and team building," John added.

"We will allocate each student their own learning coach and the programme will include outward bound activities to help them develop skills and learn about working together."

Barry College has developed its own NEETs strategy in partnership with the local authority. This strategy promotes a close relationship between the college and local authority which results in some individual NEETs being placed on full time programmes throughout the academic year. It has also resulted in the college identifying a significant amount of funding to start the new full time courses in January.

The College is looking to accommodate approximately 90 young learners – 20 places in the Cardiff Construction

Training Centre (CCTC) and the rest in Barry.

The courses will only run for two terms, so learners who missed the boat in September will have the chance to complete a course and finish at the same time as their friends and peers in June or July. The courses will run at a range of levels, and all those who successfully complete a course gain a guaranteed interview for a course at Barry college starting in the following September.

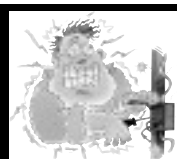
The college will have an open session on January 11 from 3.30pm to 6.30pm at Colcot Road, Careers Wales, and many of the college's partners will be on hand to provide as much support and advice as possible. All courses will be free with just a £15 registration charge.

For more information call Barry College on 01446 725000.



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FOLD-UP BED and mattress. New. £30. Tel: 01446 742772. (50)

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DURESTA GEORGE Brand new large sofa and armchair, antique gold velvet. RRP £3,500, sell £2,800 ono. Tel: 07891 793915 or 01446 760688. (50)

TWO SEATER SETTEE with two fully reclining electric armchair, burgundy, excellent condition £350 ono. Mantis - cultivator/hedgecutter, also strimmer and shredder £175 for all (can be separated. 4ft bed with headboard, good condition £30. Tel: 01446 404679 (evenings only). (50)

3 SEATER SETTEE Cream leather and two armchair, good condition £150. Buyer collects. Tel: 01446 742797. (50)

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Design: one pair of curtains, 2 double duvets, pillow cases, sheets, bean bag £50. Beautiful ornate gold mirror cost £100, sell £50. Tel: 01656 772160. (50)

4FT DRAWER DIVAN BED Mattress/headboard, as new, 9 year guarantee £125. Tel: 01656 661237. (50)

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G-PLAN Two x 2 seater sofas, armchair, pale grey/blue drayton £250. Tel: 01446 773135. (49)

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

HARTLEY John

The family would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral. We would also like to thank family, friends and colleagues for their support and messages of sympathy during this sad time. Special thanks also to AG Adams for the dignity shown to John and his family, and for their helpful, compassionate service.

JERVIS Rhianydd

Peacefully on November 30 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Rhianydd in her 99th year. Beloved wife of the late Gwyn, formerly of New Forest, Ystradowen.

Dearly loved mother of Graham and Ann, dear mother-in-law of Elizabeth and Edward, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonn. Funeral Friday December 10, service and cremation 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Kidney Research or SE Wales Downs Syndrome Support Group - please make cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account c/o J James, 11 Ffnonn Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

Lyndhurst Drummond Basil

10/12/2000
Missing you today and even more tomorrow. Our memories are forever with us.
Lots of love, Carol, Gareth, Mags, Chris and Harry

Allan Birchenough

Died peacefully on December 2, 2010.
Funeral Monday December 13 at Bridgend Crematorium.
No flowers, but donation to Cancer Research.

WHITEHOUSE John

On Thursday November 25, John, father of Thomas and Sarah, grandfather of Holly and William, died peacefully at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Monday December 13 at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to The Prostate Cancer Charity.

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Birthdays

Happy Birthday Pauline Todd December 14th

Have a brilliant night on Saturday and we won't tell anyone you're **60... Oops!**
All our love,
Pat, Andy, Gareth and Gemma x x x



Birthdays

"DANCEY"

Congratulations on your 18th Birthday Rhys 15th December
"So proud of you"
Nan & Noel
x x x



EIRA WOOSNAM
Happy **90th Birthday Mum**
13th December 2010
Lots of Love from all the family
x x x x



Latest Vale planning proposals

Mr Stephen Oliver – **First Floor Flat, 4 Arcot Street, Penarth** – Provision of screened external area for clothes drying, recycling and refuse.

Mr L Moffat – **The Old Forge, West Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove monetary cypress, ash and holly.

Mr and Mrs D Such – **33 St Brannocks Close, Barry** – Two storey rear extension.

Vale Council – **Flying Start Family Centre, Gladstone Road, Barry** – Conversion of therapy pool into creche and education facility with ancillary functions.

Taylor Wimpey Developments Ltd – **Land to east of Pencoeedre Lane, Barry** – Reserved matters application for 71 dwellings, including details for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

Vale Council – **Hydraulic Pumphouse, The Innovation Quarter, Barry Waterfront** – Temporary removal of trusses, valley beams, 5 block columns, gantry crane and rails for cleaning and painting.

Mr Ralph Evans – **Unit 03, Seaview, St Athan** – Proposed conversion of barn to dwelling.

Mr Ralph Evans – **Unit 01, Seaview, St Athan** – Proposed conversion of cottage/barn to dwelling.

Mr Rhys Blake – **2 Orchard Rise, Penarth** – Two storey and single storey extensions to the side and rear of the

property.

Vale Council – **Llanilltud Fawr Site, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major** – Creation of new Llantwit Major Welsh Medium School.

Mr Chris Richardson – **4 Pleasant View, Barry** – Conversion of flat roof to pitched roof including new bedrooms and bathroom in loft. New bedroom and bathroom within existing pitched roof. Creation of additional off street parking space.

Mr Alex Rodwood – **129 Plassey Street, Penarth** – Loft conversion to rear of property.

Newydd Housing Association – **Fford Elin, Barry** – Construction of three dwellings and associated works.

Mr M W N Hughes – **3 Millbrook Heights, Dinas Powys** – Single storey extension to the front of the property.

Mr P Groom – **Greenacres, St Mary Church** – Two storey side extension.

Mr Eiryn Petty – **Afallon, Pentre Meyrick, Cowbridge** – Erection of first floor side extension.

Newydd Housing Association – **33 Fford Elin, Barry** – Single storey rear extension plus new driveway for disabled occupant.

Mrs Sheila Allsop – **37 Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of detached garage and front porch. New two storey extension to side of house with single storey porch to front of property.

Mrs Kemp – **41 Clive Place, Penarth** – Reduce cherry.

Mrs Linda Rogers, Arthur Jones & Sons (Contractors) Ltd – **73 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Demolition of covered yard. Reduction in height of 1.2m of concrete block-work.

ESA Tree Care Ltd – **Great House, Treos** – Crown lift pine and sycamores off road and crown reduction to sycamores (25%) and to pines.

Maggie Knight, Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd – **Penarth Pier Pavillion** – Alterations and new second floor observatory extension to pavilion to include new roofs, new internal layout, building access improvements with new side entrances, lowering of ground floor, new first floor gallery and new lifts.

Mr and Mrs Andrew Miller – **The Rickyard, Upper Farm Court, Rhosne** – Construction of replacement dwelling, including conversion of existing barn.

Enwenny Garden Centre Ltd – **Enwenny Garden Centre (Formerly Bridge Farm Garden Centre), Wick Road, Enwenny** – three fascia signs and two directional signs.

Mr Tim Cole – **35 Westward Rise, Barry** – Construct to rear of dwelling a kitchen and sunlounge/breakfast room with internal alterations.

Mrs Lynda Hale – **3 Winsford Road, Sully** – Change of use of property annex only from residential use to business. Provision of complementary ther-

apies – primarily to adults with learning difficulties.

Dr Tudno Watkins – **31 Cae Rex, Cowbridge** – First floor extensions and formation of dormer windows of front and rear.

Mr Howard Potter – **10 The Square, Station Road, Dinas Powys** – External sign.

T J Kinsey & Sons – **Cwm Derwen, Weycock Road, Barry** – Farmworkers dwelling (bungalow).

Mr Richard Gibbons – **13 Earl Road, Penarth** – Proposed new garden shed.

Mr Brown – **The Westings, Park Road, Barry** – Extension to rear of first floor, replacing existing conservatory.

Mrs Crawley – **The (Five) Gables, Llandow** – Fell two ash and one sycamore. Prune two sycamore.

Mr Beavon – **Glan yr Eglwys, Flenington** – Proposed new first floor level to existing bungalow.

Mrs Murray – **15 Craig Yr Eos Road, Ogmoredy Sea** – Replacement conservatory to front of property.

Mr William Crocker – **9 Raglan Close, Dinas Powys** – Single storey side extension to provide disabled showering facilities.

Mr and Mrs Lee Hexter – **202 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Proposed single storey side/rear extension.

Mr Matthew Newman – **4 Cwrt-y-Vil Road, Penarth** – Proposed replacement single storey rear extension. To include

alterations to existing fenestration to rear annex.

Mr Matthew Donnelly – **Land adjacent to 51, Pill Street and Little Dock Street, Penarth** – Remove condition 3 of planning consent 2009/01354/FUL to allow surface water to discharge into the public sewerage system.

Mr Fenton May – **Moonfleet, St Andrews Road, Wenvoe** – Erection of hardwood conservatory.

Mr and Mrs James Burt – **15 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Alterations and extension to existing house.

Mr and Mrs Williams – **4 Tyla Rhosyr, Cowbridge** – First floor side extension to include balcony to front elevation and extension of existing rear dormer at second floor level.

Mrs Eleanor Morgan – **Heol Faen, Colwinston** – Retention of use of land as garden extension.

Mr Julian Golinski – **Land adjoining and south of 12, Parklands, Corntown** – Portal framed machinery/fodder building.

Mr and Mrs A and S Newton – **1 Ffordd Yr Eglwys, Peterston Super Ely** – Extension and alteration to provide additional accommodation at ground floor and first floor.

Mr Paul Beard – **10 Bron-y-Mor, Barry** – Two storey extension.

Mr Dave Cotton – **6 Glanmor Crescent, Barry** – Retention of roof enclosure to front and side of property.

Barry College guys grow charity moustaches – with mixed results!



Left to right: Tom Cornelius, sport lecturer Alun Rosser and the students, with their varying degrees of moustache.

A NUMBER of Barry College sports students and staff adorned their upper lips throughout November to raise money for charity.

They took part in the 'Movember' challenge, to grow a moustache during November, to raise money for the Prostate Cancer charity. Since it started in Australia in 2003, more than 627,000 'Mo Bros' and 'Mo Sistas' have taken part in the annual event, aimed at changing the face of men's health.

Barry College's group of Mo Bros, who started off clean shaven on November 1 and grew their soup strainers right up to the end of the month, raised £80, although some of the sport coaching and sport science BTEC students were more capable of cultivating face fungus than others.

Joining the Movember movement was the brainchild of sport and fitness lecturer Tom Cornelius. He said: "It was my idea, but the students all joined in when they found out what I was doing."

"Some have had more success than others! A few members of staff have also taken part but some, who will remain nameless, found it too itchy!"

Older people's forum meets carers' group



ABOVE:

Winnie Davies; Lynda Wallis; Coun Dorothy Turner (Vale carers champion); Rene Gannon (vice chairperson OPSPF); Carol Stingl (EPP trainer/coordinator).

MEMBERS of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum were recently invited to a carers' rights day in West House, Penarth.

Crossroad Care Cardiff and the Vale provides support, advice and respite breaks for carers, and the 'Lean On Me' project increases opportunities of respite breaks for Carers in Cardiff and the Vale where families are coping with mental health problems.

Coun Dorothy Turner came along as the Vale of Glamorgan Carers Champion to support the carers and offer help and advice.

Jo Hendry (counsellor and trainer) runs a monthly group at Stanwell Road Baptist Church Hall in Penarth for carers and their dependent relatives with dementia.

Telephone 029 2070 0057 for more information.



BARRY College students visited the Senedd recently, for a VIP tour and a discussion about future training and job prospects in legal, medical and wider administrative careers.

Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (COLCOT ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH WINSTON ROAD, BARRY) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME) ORDER 2010

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than twenty one days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedule below:

Full details of the proposals, to include the proposed Order and plan no T/10/40/CEP may be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref. IF628) in writing by 30th December 2010 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order

Make new Order.

No waiting at anytime.

Colcot Road, Barry

On its north east side from a point 20 metres north west of its junction with Winston Road to a point 15 metres south east of that junction.

Dated this 9th day of December 2010

M. Punter

Head of Visible Services

Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2010

(GWAHARDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG)
(COLCOT ROAD WRTH EI CHYFFORDD A WINSTON ROAD Y BARRI)

Bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1 a 2 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig), a phob p. er galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf un diwrnod ar hugain ar ôl dyddiad y Gorchymyn hwn i'r dibenion cyffredinol a nodwyd yn yr Atodlen isod:

Cewch weld y cynigion llawn, gan gynnwys y Gorchymyn arfaethedig a chynllun T/10/40/CEP yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Dylech gyfeirio unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r cynnig at Bennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf. IF 628) ar ffurf llythyr erbyn 30 Rhagfyr 2010, gan egluro'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

ATODLEN

Gorchymyn Gwahardd Aros arfaethedig

Gwneud Gorchymyn newydd.

Dim aros ar unrhyw adeg.

Colcot Road, y Barri

Ar ei hochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol rhwng man sy'n 20 metr i'r gogledd orllewin o'r gyffordd â Winston Road a man arall 15 metr i'r de ddwyran o'r gyffordd honno.

Dyddiedig 9 Rhagfyr 2010

M. Punter

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,

Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô CF5 6AA.

SWITCHING ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN PORTHCAWL WITH A FUN STREET PARTY

PORTHCAWL switched on its Christmas lights in its traditional style, with an afternoon of events, leading up to the arrival of Santa.

Master of ceremonies was DJ Lee Jukes from Bridge FM. There were fairground rides in John Street, and a hot chestnut stall run by the Round Table (pictured below).

Accompanying the carol singing were members of the Porthcawl Comprehensive School Wind Band.

Photographs by ALEX HERBERT

For more pictures, go to:

www.porthcawlchristmasfestival.co.uk



Lee Jukes.



ABOVE:
The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis, with the winners of the school's poster competition, which was organised by the town council.

Scorpions schedule RL trial for Porthcawl

SOUTH Wales Scorpions Rugby League Club are having another attempt to stage their open player trials this Sunday at Porthcawl RFC.

Players are to report at 1pm to register for the trials that begin at 2pm.

The trials were originally due to take place last Sunday but were postponed due to a frozen pitch.

However, with the weather set to get a bit warmer by the weekend, and with snow starting to melt on the fields in the Bridgend and Porthcawl area, the club believes that they can give it a go this Sunday.

Supporters are welcome to watch the future stars of Wales Rugby League try out for a professional contract.

The Scorpions has received more than 40 applications from players who come from across south Wales, some with previous Rugby League experience and some who have only played rugby union.

They are hopeful of picking up the next big star, as the club did last year when they unearthed players such as Steve Parry, who was the league's third highest try scorer with 19 tries.

Jamie Murphy was discovered last year and he has since signed for Crusaders.

Also, 28-year-old Neil Dallimore, who had never played Rugby League before, ended up being one of the most consistent performers for the Scorpions.

Meagre reward for Vale cross-country runners

THERE was disappointment for the Vale boys who competed at the first important cross-country championships of the winter season at Trelai Park, Cardiff – the South Wales Regional Schools event, covering the former counties of Mid and South Glamorgan.

Despite providing a very significant 88 of the 512 finishers at the event, which was being staged for the 13th time, all the six Vale schools had as a reward at the end of a dry, sunny afternoon was a single individual medal, out of the 16 individual medals and 12 sets of team awards on offer.

In the three races held, there are four sets of team awards on offer in each race – for the first three teams (of four) and the first B team.

The number of individual medals depends on the age group, and the number of likely competitors – the first 8 in the under-13 race for years 7 and 8, the first five in the under-15 (for years 9 and



ABOVE: A very encouraging run from Connor Taylor (Llantwit), 8th in the under-15 race.

ishing ahead of former Welsh Schools' year-7 champion Thomas.

The other Vale athlete to catch the eye in this race was Connor Taylor. The Llantwit year-10 showed that he has real potential by finishing a very creditable eighth.

The second race of the afternoon, the under-13 event, was easily the biggest of the day, with more than 250 finishers. Rian Thomas (Cowbridge, year-8) was the top-placed Vale runner, and he can feel pleased with his fine 10th place. Also in the top 20 were Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry, year-8, 18th) and year-7 Jon Cummings (St Cyres, 20).

Morgan Davies (Porthcawl), the silver medalist last year, dominated the senior boys' race, easing away for a comfortable victory. Elliot Slade (Bishop of Llandaff) and Matthew Drury took second and third places.

Behind that trio, there was a battle royal between three of the brightest year-11 prospects in the region – Mike Ward (Llanishen), Matthew Antoniazzi (Lewis School) and Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive). Ward and Antoniazzi are both Welsh Schools internationals, and perhaps just had the extra experience on the day.

Matthew Edwards may not yet have gained an international vest but he certainly has the ability to gain one. If he remains patient, and trains regularly and consistently, that honour may come at the end of this cross-country season. He should be satisfied, but not pleased by his sixth place finish.

Just outside the top 10, it is always good to see two year-13 pupils in action. Dominic Farr, surprisingly the only Bro Morgannwg pupil to compete in all three races, finished 11th, one place better than his Vale rival, Darren Jones (Llantwit). Both boys will be needed by South Wales region at the Welsh Inter Regional championships at Builth Wells on December 12, and by Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools at the McCain Cardiff Cross

Challenge (January 16) and the Aviva Welsh Schools Nationals at Brecon (March 16).

The team competitions were dominated by Lewis School, Llanishen and Cwm Rhymni. Llantwit were the top-placed Vale school in the senior and under-15 sections, with Cowbridge finishing fifth in both the A and B sections of the under-13 age group.

Results of Vale pupils and teams: Senior Boys – 5,790m – Years 11+ – 72 finishers: 6 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comp) 20:36; 11 Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg) 22:07; 12 Darren Jones (Llantwit) 22:10; 21 Oliver Crosby (Llantwit) 23:22; 22 Tom Howles (Llantwit) 23:25; 23 Dan Owen (Llantwit) 23:27; 26 Elliot Clissold (Barry Comp) 23:45; 35 Rhys Griffin (Cow) 24:43; 36 Elliot Parry (Llantwit) 24:44; 51 James Williams (Cow) 25:50; 55 Lewys Jones (Cow) 26:04; 57 Alun Jones (Barry Comp) 26:24; 58 Tom Parker (Llantwit) 26:27; 59 Adam Hewitt (Cow) 26:35; 60 Richard Lewis (Barry Comp) 26:42; 64 Jake Walker (Cow) 27:42; 67 Stuart Fleming (Cow) 28:54; 68 Jack Eilcox (Cow) 28:56; 69 Gareth Crapnell (Barry Comp) 29:25; 70 Harri Trotman (Cow) 30:21.

A Teams: 4 Llantwit 78; 7 Barry Comprehensive 149; 9 Cowbridge 200.

Under-15 Boys – 4,700m – Years 9 and 10 – 187 finishers: 5 Matthew Collins (Barry Comp) 16:52; 8 Connor Taylor (Llantwit) 17:33; 16 Ben Owen (Llantwit) 17:58; 18 Elliot Richards (Stanwell) 18:06; 19 Sam Peterken (St Cyres) 18:14; 37 Jason Sami (Cow) ; 39 Curtis Hayes (Barry Comp) 19:12; 46 Ieuan Jones (Stanwell) ; 57 Tom Morgan (Cow) 19:47; 59 Scott Laken (Cow); 63 Tom Owen (Cow); 64 Gareth Hurman (Barry Comp); 66 James Flanagan (Stanwell); 69 Will Teague (Llantwit); 79 Tamas Barry (Stanwell); 98 Jacob Stokes-Mellor (Llantwit); 100 Rowan Miller (Llantwit); 102 Tomos Havard (St Cyres); 109 Chris Powell (Cow); 111 Miles Jenkins (Cow); 121 Liam Martin (Cow); 130 Tom Clay (Llantwit); 137 Liam Tanner (Barry Comp); 164 Will Parker (Llantwit); 170 Andrew Young (Barry Comp); 171 Ieuan Willey (St Cyres).

A Teams: 7 Llantwit 191; 8 Stanwell 209; 9 Cowbridge 216; 10 Barry Comprehensive 245.

Under-13 Boys – 3,050m – Years 7 and 8 – 255 finishers: 10 Rian Thomas (Cow) 11:53; 18 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp) 12:09; 20 Jon Cummings (St Cyres) 12:13; 21 Alex Love (Cow) 12:14; 25 Spencer Robinson (Stanwell) 12:21; 32 Richard Dangerfield (Llantwit); 38 Scott McMillan (Llantwit); 39 Ethan Hutchings (Stanwell); 42 Ben McCulloch (Stanwell); 46 Huw Bennett (Cow); 47 Dewi Bennett (Cow); 48 Ellis Rosser (Cow); 56 Luke Davidson (St Cyres); 58 Sean Davies (Cow); 59 Luke Jeffries (Cow); 63 Will Marsh (Stanwell); 74 AJ Harry (Barry Comp); 77 Morgan Humphries (Stanwell) 13:13; 83 Harry Lambert (Barry Comp); 90 Josh Kemp (Barry Comp); 105 James Munn (Cow); 107 Iestyn Willey (St Cyres); 122 Joe Nott (Cow); 132 Rhys Gardner (Llantwit); 136 Joshua Peterson (Cow); 143 Ethan John (Barry Comp); 144 Michael George (Barry Comp); 157 Toby Walker (Cow); 172 Will Gale (Stanwell); 173 Matt Jackson (St Cyres); 181 Dominic Astead



ABOVE: The leading Vale boy in the under-13 race – Rian Thomas (Cowbridge).

(Stanwell); 182 Jonathan Sparks (Llantwit); 185 Tom Marsh (Stanwell); 190 Christian Davies (St Cyres); 191 Cameron Davies (Llantwit); 193 Ethan Darter (Llantwit) 15:08; 204 Jordan Davies (Llantwit); 205 Tom Slimmings (Llantwit); 212 Tom Collins (Stanwell); 230 Jake Emmott (St Cyres); 247 Luke Johnson Brown (Cow); 250 Iestyn Jones (Llantwit).

A Teams: 5 Cowbridge 124; 8 Stanwell 169; 10 Barry Comp 265; 14 St Cyres 356; 15 Llantwit 384.

B teams: 5 Cowbridge B 270; 18 Stanwell B 615; 20 Cowbridge C 662; 24 Llantwit B 793.

PETER MORRIS

Vale kart racer Tom meets his hero

TOM HARVEY had a 'once-in-a-lifetime' tour of the McLaren-Mercedes F1 factory, when he met his hero Lewis Hamilton.

Tom was invited to take part in the VIP visit along with several of his rivals and friends from the national Formula Kart Stars (FKS) Championship – the series that set Hamilton himself on the fast track to future superstardom just under a decade-and-a-half ago. The 12-year-old Bonvilston-based hotshot earned his place on the trip by finishing a superb third in the country in the 2010 MSA British Cadet class of FKS.

A guided tour of the impressive McLaren headquarters in Woking, Surrey, began with a privileged opportunity to take a look at some of the team's most celebrated and successful creations, from the beautifully-preserved, very first model campaigned by its eponymous founder Bruce McLaren almost half a century ago, through to the nigh-on invincible MP4/4 of 1988, and right up to Lewis Hamilton's title-winning car of 2008.

There was also the pioneering, never-raced six-wheeler of the 1970s, the distinctive M23 with its innovative high airbox – a car driven to world championship glory by Brazil's Emerson Fittipaldi back in 1974 – as well as the machines from McLaren's dominant era in the 1980s, when the likes of Niki Lauda, Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna all claimed the ultimate prize behind the wheel of one of the red-and-white cars. "For just a normal person like me, to get to see all the old cars and feel so much history there was just incredible!" Tom said. "I got to touch Senna's car – a car that was once driven by the greatest legend in motorsport."

Tom said: "Considering Lewis is my favourite racing driver, to be able to meet him was just awesome!" "He spoke to each of us in-turn and remembered all of our names, which I thought was amazing. He told us what his favourite karting circuits were from when he raced in karts and I asked him what he thinks about before he goes out onto the grid. He said he just tries to chill by putting on a comedy show or listening to music".



ABOVE: Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg) the first Vale sixth former to finish in the senior race.

10) and the first three in the seniors (years 11+).

That single medal success came in the opening under-15 race. While the two leaders – James Hunt (Brynteg) and Lewis Jones (Maesteg), both from Bridgend County Borough – were soon away from the field, there was a mighty battle behind them between Jack Gooch (Radyr), John Cove (Cardiff High), Morgan Thomas (Porthcawl) and the much-improved Matthew Collins (Barry Comprehensive).

Using cross-country as a stamina aid for his 800 metres on the track, year-10 Collins was the least experienced of the quartet and, over a long course, he had to settle for the fifth place medal behind Gooch and Cove, but he can take heart from fin-



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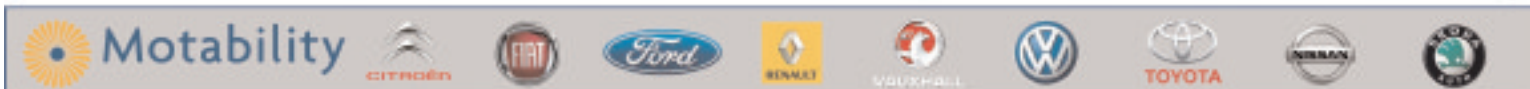
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- 08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 TDI 80 Reference Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In metallic silver with reference grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, ISOFIX anchorage point front electric windows, one owner, only 18,500 miles £6,995
- 07 57 MINI Cooper 1.6 (120) Chili Pack 3-dr Hatchback. In pepper white with carbon black half leather interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, body coloured bumpers, service history, only 56,000 miles £9,995
- 07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback. In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles £11,995
- 07 07 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4i 16v sport 2-dr cabriolet in air blue with charcoal alpha interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, cd, front fogs, only 48,730 miles £6,995
- 06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSI (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles £9,995
- 06 56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback. In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles £8,995
- 05 55 RENAULT Megane 2.0 VVT 136 Privilege 2-dr Coupe Cabriolet. In metallic gold with magnolia leather interior, luxury pack, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, panoramic roof, only 9,250 miles £6,995
- 05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110 Sport 5-dr hatchback in flamenco red with black Merlin interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, body coloured bumpers, only 50,600 miles £4,995
- 05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles £4,995
- 04 54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDI (100ps) Sport 5-dr in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles £4,995
- 04 04 AUDI TT Coupe 3.2 V6 3-dr Coupe Quattro. In dolemitte grey with grey leather interior, climate control, traction control system, multi CD, BOSE sound system, only 35,040 miles £9,995
- 04 04 BMW 3 Series 2.0 T 320CD Sport 2-dr coupe in orient blue with beige leather interior, sat nav, wood trim, TV automatic air con, MV2 alloy wheels, only 93,440 miles £8,995
- 04 04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-sp in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles £6,995
- 04 54 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles £3,495
- 03 53 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 3.2 R32 3-dr Hatchback. In diamond Black with black leather interior, electric sunroof, cruise control, 18" alloy wheels, metallic paint, climate control, service history, only 63,000 miles £8,995
- 03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles £3,995
- 02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles £9,995
- 00 17 WLEX IS200 2.0 Sport 4-dr Saloon. In Strathcarn blue with Oakham suede/leather interior, multi-CD, electric heated seats, electric sunroof, air con, only 57,280 miles £3,995

FAMILY

- 08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles £7,995
- 07 07 KIA Sorento 2.5 CRDi XE Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon in quartz grey/purple with grey interior, air con, CD, roof rails, four wheel drive, service history, only 36,500 miles £12,995
- 07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDI Stylance in metallic ruby red with stylance grey interior, rear parking sen-

- sors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles £8,495
- 07 57 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style 5-Door Hatchback. In moon dust silver with Kyoto Ebony interior, CD, electric front windows, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 25,480 miles £5,495
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles £6,495
- 06 56 DODGE Caliber 2.0 TD SXT 5-dr Hatchback. In bright silver clearcoat with Pastel slate grey leather interior, air con, multi CD, cruise control, traction control system, only 42,230 miles £6,995
- 06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVT Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In quartz with laser charcoal interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 32,000 miles £5,495
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- 06 06 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI S Line. In brilliant red with black mondial interior, climate control, aluminium trim strips, multi CD, 18" alloy wheels, service history, only 73,400 miles £10,995
- 06 06 FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.8 TDCI Diesel 5-dr Hatchback. In black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 61,199 miles, quick clean screen £5,995
- 54 AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback. In black with charcoal interior, CD, front fogs, climate control, alloy wheels, one owner only 60,300 miles £6,995
- 05 54 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX 5-dr Estate. In imperial blue with grey interior, a/con, cd, electric windows, body coloured bumpers, only 30,700 miles £3,495
- 05 05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles £5,995
- 04 54 CITROEN C3 stop&start 1.4 5-dr Automatic Hatchback. In silver with blue velour interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 29,920 miles £3,695
- 04 04 TOYOTA Avenis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles £5,995
- 01 51 MERCEDES Benz A-Class 1.4 A140 Avantgard 5-dr hatchback. In red with slate grey half leather/cloth interior, cd, ipod connection, air con, alloy wheels, service history, only 47,790 miles £2,995

SMALL

- 08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles £3,995
- 08 08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 5-dr Hatchback in Caldera black with black interior, electric front windows, p/steering, CD, centre rear seat belt, 1 owner, £35 a year road tax, only 18,100 miles £5,995
- 08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles £7,995
- 08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles £4,495
- 07 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M:Play 3-dr Hatchback. In flamenco red with Talucan black interior, air con, CD with aux input, front fogs, immobiliser, only 41,980 miles £5,995
- 05 57 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr Hatchback. In moon dust silver with Kyoto ebony interior, CD, driver and passenger air bags, colour coded bumpers, front electric windows, only 30,900 miles £4,995
- 05 55 FORDV Fiesta 1.4 TD Studio 3-dr hatchback in moon dust silver with intro midnight cloth interior, power steering, colour coded bumpers, CD, £30 a year road tax, low mileage £3,995
- 07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v life (a/c) 3-dr hatchback easy tronic. In metro blue with punch cloth charcoal interior, electric mirrors, air con, immobiliser, service history, only 17,900 miles £5,495
- 06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Sport 3-dr Hatchback in metallic silver with charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, multi cd, body coloured bumpers, only 31,600 miles £4,995
- 05 55 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0i 12v Life 3-dr Hatchback. In purple spell with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, power steering, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 29,820 miles £3,495
- 04 54 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Pepper pack) 3-dr Hatchback. In purple with white roof, black interior, 8 spoke alloy wheels, a/c, cd, front fogs, e/front windows, only 39,760 miles £6,995
- 04 54 FIAT Punto 1.2 8v 3-dr hatchback. In crystal green with grey tek interior, electric front windows, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 34,500 miles £2,995
- 04 04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles £3,495
- 03 53 MINI One 1.6 3-dr hatchback in indie blue with anthracite/panther black interior, alloy wheels, chrome mirror caps, electric panoramic glass r oof, only 71,000 miles £5,995
- 02 51 ALFA ROMEO 1.6 T-Spark Lusso 3-dr Hatchback in Alfa red with elegant velour interior, alloy wheels, air conditioning, i-pod connection, colour coded bumpers, only 79,085 miles £2,995

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 05 BMW X5 3.0 D Sport Exclusive Auto. In black with cream leather, pan-roof, 61,000 miles £18,995
 54 PORSCHE Cayenne 'S' 4.5 V8 Manual. Dark met-green, black leather heated seats, sat-nav, 56,000 mls £16,995
 08 VW EOS 2.0 FSI Sport. Silver with black leather , 44,000 miles, convertible . **REDUCED BY £1,000 TO** £13,995
 07 MERCEDES C220 CDI Avant Garde Estate Auto. In met silver, 65,000 miles, superb throughout. . . £12,995
 57 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Convertible Automatic. In met red with beige leather seats, one owner, fantastic value at . . £11,995
 57 MAZDA MX5 2.0 Sports. In met blue with black leather heated seats, 12,000 miles, 1 owner. £11,995
 04 MERCEDES CLK 240 Convertible Auto. In black with black leather trim, 66,000 miles, upgraded alloys £11,995
 04 AUDI A4 2.5TDI Auto Convertible. In silver with black leather, 71,000 miles, sat nav etc £10,995
 07 MERCEDES C220 CDI Avantgarde Automatic. In silver, 1 owner, fsh **FANTASTIC VALUE AT** £8,995
 55 BMW 116i ES 5-dr. In granite metallic, 34,000 miles, stylish family hatch at £7,995
 04 HONDA Civic Type R 3-dr. In black, 44,000 miles, local car with a/c, alloys. **SUPERB VALUE AT** £6,995
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 02 TOYOTA RAV 4 2.0 Diesel GX 5-Dr. In champagne metallic, 87,000 miles, lots of history including belts . £5,995
 55 FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST. In red with black/red half leather trim, 50,000 miles, a/c £5,695
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 52 TOYOTA RAV 4 1.8 VVTi NV 3-dr. In birch met, 43,000 miles, 2 local owners. £4,995
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 53 SUZUKI Jimney 02. Black/silver soft top, 51,000 miles **REDUCED BY £300 TO** £3,695

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- 09 FORD Focus 1.6 Style 5-dr. In black, 19,000 miles with sports pack and a/c £8,995
 59 FIESTA 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-dr. In white, 8,000 miles, host of extras, 1 owner . **REDUCED BY £1000 TO** £7,995
 59 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 5-dr (new shape) met blue, 500 miles only **REDUCED BY £1000 TO** £7,995
 07 VW Polo 1.9 TDI Sport 3-dr. In black, 43,000 miles, 1 owner, a/c, cd, alloys £7,295
 10 CHEVROLET Aveo 1.4 LT 5-dr Auto. In red, 4,000 miles, fantastic value at £6,995
 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6TD Sport Estate. In silver, 58,000 miles, panoramic roof, low road tax diesel. . . . £6,995
 54 VW Golf 1.9 TDI SE 5-dr. In silver, 60,000 miles, alloys, a/c, c/d, etc **REDUCED BY £500 TO** £6,495
 07 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVTi Dynamic. In met grey, 10,000 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £500 TO** £5,995
 07 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Automatic. In met-burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles . £5,995
 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 120 Club 7 seater. Black, economical people carrier **REDUCED BY £1000 TO** £5,995
 06 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 T-Spirit 5-Dr Automatic. In light met grey, 28,000 miles with A/C, alloys £5,995
 06 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5-dr. In black, 34,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc. £5,695
 58 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto. In Met Blue, 9,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty . . £5,495
 56 FORD Focus 1.6LX Estate. Black, 20,146 miles, 1 owner, outstanding value . **REDUCED BY £500 TO** £5,495
 56 MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic. In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles. £4,995
 56 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Sport 3-dr. In silver, 37,000 miles, 1 owner, low road tax £4,995
 06 SKODA Fabia Ambiente 16v 5-dr. In met gold, 25,000 miles, local car with a/c etc £4,995
 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Silver, 46,000 miles, 7 seater. **REDUCED BY £1000 TO** £4,995
 06 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc. £4,995
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 06 NISSAN Note 1.4 SE. In electric blue, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, excellent throughout. £4,995
 06 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique. In black metallic, 33,000 miles with panoramic roof etc. £4,995
 57 FORD Focus 1.6LX 5-Dr. In met blue, 44,000 miles, ideal family hatch with a/c, cd £4,995
 07 SMART Four Two 1.0 Passion Automatic (New Model). In silver with cd, a/c, alloys, £30 road tax. . . £4,695
 56 SMART FourTwo 700 Passion Automatic Convertible. Silver with black leather, heated seats, a/c. . £4,695
 04 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDi SE Estate 7-seater. In light met green, full panoramic roof, 70,000 miles. . . £4,695
 05 ALFA ROMEO 147 1.6 Lusso 3-dr. In met blue, 56,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc £3,995
 55 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style 5-dr. In black, 20,000 miles, 2 owners with cd, etc. £3,995
 05 CITROEN C4 1.4 SXi 5-dr. In met-green, 58,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, alloys etc £3,995
 07 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE. In silver, low mileage example with low running costs £3,695
 05 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVTi Expression. In met-red, 60,000 miles, 2 owners, only £3,695
 55 CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 SXi 3-Dr. In black, 39,000 miles with a/c, CD, alloys **REDUCED BY £300 TO** £2,995
 06 MITSUBISHI Colt 1.2 C2i 3-dr. Light met-blue, 1 owner, CD, e/w, c/d **REDUCED BY £1000 TO** £2,995
 05 DAEWOO Laceti 1.6 SX 5-dr. In silver, 55,000 miles, with a/c, cd, alloys £2,995
 54 ROVER 45 1.6 Club in silver, 36,000 mile example with heated seats, cd, etc £2,995
 04 ALFA Romeo 147 1.6 Lusso 5-dr. In silver, italian flair + style at only £2,995
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 04 RENAULT Clio Authentique. In black, 73,935 miles, c/l, e/w, c/d. £2,695
 51 FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 4-Dr. In met black, 75,000 miles, 1 owner example with A/C etc. £2,695
 52 FORD KA 1.3 Style. In silver, 45,000 miles, alloys & CD £2,295

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WINTER MOTORING

Young Lewis, (10), has designs on a new car and some new films!



ABOVE: Lewis Panniers and Andrew Maciver, sales manager Sinclair Volkswagen, Cardiff with the winning car design.

A BRIDGEND boy will see his 'comic book hero' design brought to life on a Volkswagen Touran and received a year's supply of cinema tickets for his efforts.

Lewis Panniers aged 10 from Bridgend, was announced as the winner of the Sinclair Volkswagen 'design a car' competition, which

marked the launch of Volkswagen's new MPVs, the Touran and Sharan.

Youngsters were challenged to create an imaginative and colourful design, based on their favourite comic book hero, to celebrate the new family orientated vehicles.

Clive Williams, Sinclair's group operations manager, said: "We were overwhelmed by the number of entries we received.

"Lewis's design instantly captured our attention due to his creative use of characters and colours. Clearly he is talented and his passion for super-heroes were certainly evident in his design.

"We are delighted to introduce two new family cars to our range and felt a competition aimed at young people would be an excellent way to showcase their arrival.

"Lewis's winning design will feature on Sinclair Volkswagen Cardiff's demonstrator Touran, and includes the Batman and Superman emblems on the vehicle's sides, with a Captain America logo on the roof."

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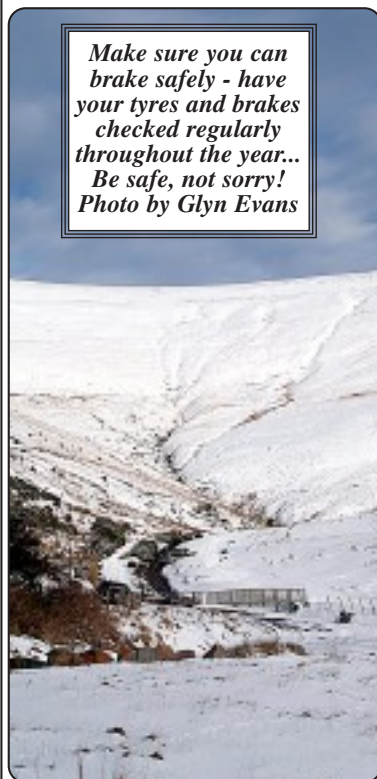
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Dinner held in memory of Bridgend rugby stalwart



South Wales Police RFC recently held a fundraising dinner in memory of Colin Hillman with a number of Ospreys and former New Zealand All Blacks as guests of honour. It proved a memorable evening, under master of ceremonies, Scrum V's Phil Steele.

ABOVE:
Pictured, left to right, are: Lindsay Griffiths, Aurwel Morgan WRU, Ryan Miles, Filo Tiatia, Marty Holah, Gerald Hodgson, Stephen Cotterell and Mathew Hillman.

Pencoed take first step to Wembley!

PENCOED Comprehensive School's year-7 side took the first step on the road to Wembley Stadium after qualifying for the Welsh National semi-finals of the Carnegie Champions School Competition when they won the south west Wales section by beating local rivals Brynteg 30-16.

The school could eventually take on the best that British Rugby League has to offer with the Grand Finals being at Wembley, before the Carnegie Challenge Cup Final in August.

Unfortunately, through late withdrawals, mainly due to weather, the tournament became a straight single game between the two schools.

The game started with an early score from Ashley Jones for Brynteg, who dived over in the corner following a penalty 10 metres from the Pencoed line.

Pencoed then took control of the first half with a brace of tries from the strong running Matthew Wilmont, and one try and a conversion from Brandon Thresher to make the score 14-4 at the break.

The second half saw both sides play an open brand of rugby league with excellent handling and offloads which resulted in a high scoring entertaining game. Further Pencoed tries were scored by Zach Taylor, Cameron Davies and Tommy Reffell with conversions from Thresher and Reffell.

Brynteg replied with

tries from Ashley Jones and Dafydd Woods and a conversion from Scott Winters.

The tournament produced some outstanding individual performances from Cameron Davies, Matthew Wilmont, Brandon Thresher, Josh Raikes, Jordan Bissett and Tommy Reffell from Pencoed and Connor Mantell, Bloddyn Webster, Scott Winters and Ashleigh Jones from Brynteg.

"This was an excellent match with free flowing rugby throughout," said Wales Rugby League's development manager, Mark Jones. "The standard of play was exceptional and I look forward to seeing Pencoed in the semi-finals."

IG

Under-8s beat the weather

BYRNCEITH under-8s were fortunate that they didn't have to battle the weather conditions as they displayed their talents at the Liberty Stadium.

During the half-time interval of Ospreys vs Edinburgh game on Saturday evening, the youngsters played their second round match in the Ospreys Tag Rugby knockout tournament.

The under-8s made a number of changes from the first round match to give as many of the squad an opportunity to play at the stadium.

The game began at a frantic pace with both sides trying to gain the upper hand. It was Brynceith who opened

the scoring, and showing excellent skills with good handling and great running, they had soon crossed the line three times before South Gower replied.

It was a lead Brynceith were never to lose. The Brynceith tagging was on good form and the defence held strong with Miles Blakeman, Thomas Bassett, Morgan Hughes and Hollie Morgan all excelling.

This allowed Brynceith to push forward with further tries being shared among Rhys Williams, Shaun Batchelor and Jake Whitefield. Further outstanding defensive displays from Will

Laverick, Cory Ryall and match captain Mike Gillette proved to be too much for South Gower, and Brynceith ran out 8-5 winners.

The youngsters will face a quarter-final against Neath Athletic in March during the Ospreys vs Glasgow Warriors match.

Try scorers: Rhys Williams (3), Shaun Batchelor (2), Miles Blakeman, Mike Gillette and Jake Whitefield.

Match day squad: Mike Gillette (captain), Thomas Bassett, Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Ben Daniel, Morgan Hughes, Will Laverick, Hollie Morgan, Jake Whitefield and Rhys Williams.

Sad loss of a dedicated coach: John Hartley

THE athletics community, not only in Barry but also in south Wales, was shocked by the recent death of John Hartley, the most experienced and longest serving coach of the local club, Barry & Vale Harriers.

John had been a part of the club for more than 30 years, and had helped young athletes of all standards to improve their performance, with a number of them achieving international honours. Together with the Ireland family, he helped both the club and its athletes develop.

It is a mark of the respect in which he was held within athletics that St Helen's Church was packed for his funeral service.

Both John Penny, the president of Welsh Athletics, and Peter Lane, the chairman of South Wales Region, were in the congregation, together with Barry & Vale Harriers chairman, Fred Malkin, and many current and past members of the club.

PETER MORRIS

GEM sport

ON AND OFF THE TURF with BRIAN LEE

New sponsorship deal for revived Champion Hurdle

NORTHERN Racing and Ffos Las Racecourse have announced a three-year sponsorship deal for the williamhill.com Welsh Champion Hurdle.

The six-figure agreement runs until 2013 and positions the two-mile race as a major target for every top hurdler in Britain and Ireland.

The race was revived earlier this year at Ffos Las Racecourse, but the scheduled fixture in January was abandoned because of extreme wintry conditions.

The inaugural new williamhill.com Welsh Champion Hurdle, with

£45,000 in prize-money, will now take place on Saturday, February 5, 2011.

Northern Racing's Group managing director Tony Kelly said: "This is a fantastic sponsorship deal for the race, which helps to give it the status that it deserves in the jump racing calendar. We are thrilled that William Hill are giving the race their support."

"I'm sure - with its great timing less than six weeks before the Cheltenham Festival and its Channel 4 coverage - it is a race that will be of interest to the connections of the leading contenders for the Champion Hurdle itself."

"Ffos Las Racecourse has thrived since its

opening in 2009 and has made its mark on the sport of horse racing."

"The new williamhill.com Welsh Champion Hurdle offers the racecourse a showpiece race, and hopes to welcome some high-class hurdlers for what should be a tremendous day of racing in early February."

William Hill's sponsorship manager Jennie Prest said: "We are delighted to put our name to the williamhill.com Welsh Champion Hurdle - a sponsorship that completes a full sweep of high-profile sponsorships for us in each of the home nations."

"Run historically in many other guises, it

will now hold the mantle as one of the premier hurdle races in the calendar, and alongside the team at Ffos Las, we look forward to developing the day as major pre-Cheltenham trials day."

The race was last run in the spring of 2002 at Chepstow Racecourse, by which time it was a class B handicap race. When won in 1990 by Champion Hurdler Beech Road, it was a listed event.

Traditionally held in April, the race began to suffer competition from Aintree and Punchestown racecourses and sometimes attracted only a small field of runners.

Festive event 'not to be missed' for horse-lovers

BRIDGEND COUNTRYWIDE HAS SPECIAL TREATS IN STORE!

HORSE lovers are sure to 'warm to winter' at a special seasonal equine event taking place at Bridgend's Countrywide store on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 10-12.

The focus of the three-day weekend is 'winter care' and a spectacular rug bonanza - the sale of leading brand rugs, all at clearance prices - with Countrywide's Equine Specialists on hand to ensure customers get their best buy.

"Finding the right rug to suit your horse is vital," says Countrywide's Equestrian Expert, Sara Blackshaw. "We'll have lots of fantastic offers over the weekend. Come in, have a chat

and we can help you select the perfect rug - and at a great saving."

Countrywide also offers an expert rug cleaning service. "Now's the right time to make sure rugs are in tip-top condition," adds Sara, "and our comprehensive service includes repair and reproofing too."

The weekend also marks the launch of new bedding and feed ranges with great introductory offers: 33 per cent off new feeds from Dengie and Dodson & Horrell and a '3 for 2' on 75 litre bales of Countrywide's new dust extracted, super soft Wood Chip Bedding.

Riders and horse owners in the swing of 'the Christmas shop' will be spoilt for choice - 20 per cent off Dublin Pinnacle leather boots and 20 per cent off Toggi jodhpurs make

them great buys. There will be 33 per cent off a Kadence bonded striped fleece rug with matching fleece and acrylic bandages, plus matching head collar. The Kadence European padded leather bridle and matching padded leather head collar will also be on offer.

Sara went on: "We've got lots of fun stocking fillers too, from salt licks for horses to snowflake gloves and cozy socks for riders. Whatever the purchase, Countrywide, as a dedicated equestrian retailer, always has specialists on hand to offer expert advice on all aspects of horse and rider care."

"Nutrition and hoof care are especially important at this time of year," confirms Sara. "We also have experts at each store trained in the correct fitting of items such as riding

hats and body protectors."

Visitors on Saturday, December 11 will be able to take part in the store's Christmas event, joining staff for mulled wine, mince pies and fun family activities.

The Bridgend Countrywide store will be open from 8.30am to 6pm during the Rug Bonanza and is located at Bridgend Industrial Estate, South Road.

Store manager Kath Balaney said: "We have a lot of loyal equestrian customers that we see throughout the year. I know I have a lot of great products to offer them and knowledgeable specialists who are looking forward to meeting them at Christmas."

"Anyone with an interest in horses can't afford to miss this very special event."

Matthew has first international appearance 'snatched away'

LAST Saturday, December 4, Matthew Collins should have been competing for the four boy Welsh Schools under-16 squad at the SIAB schools' international combined events international at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow.

In his first full year in the sport, the Barry Comprehensive year-10 has made his mark on the track over 400 and 800 metres, and in the combined events area

contesting five events - hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot and 800 metres.

Although his international kit had arrived, last Wednesday the unwanted telephone call came that Welsh Schools had been advised by their coach company to say that, given the existing and expected weather conditions, they would not be able to transport the team.

Later that week, the news came through that, because of

the weather conditions, the event had been cancelled, with no chance of re-scheduling.

To have your first international appearance snatched away in that fashion can be a huge blow. Hopefully, that will not be the case with young Matthew, and he will come out of it even more determined to work hard and improve, and earn international honours in 2011!

Peter Morris